Thursday, May 10, 2012 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 151 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DB BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Morales: I'll tell everything about $10M

RUN AGAINST CORRUPTION Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales leads a stunt Run Against Corruption at the Office of the Ombudsman on Wednesday, the 24th anniversary of her office. Running with her are more than 100 people calling for the truth, especially in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio

OMBUDSMAN Conchita Carpio Morales will take the witness stand in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona and will disclose all that is necessary about her request for him to answer allegations from complainants about his alleged $10 million in foreign currency accounts.

Asked if the $10-million figure came from the complainants, Morales told the media to wait for her testimony before the Senate.

Morales, a former colleague of Corona in the Supreme Court, yesterday told reporters that she would heed the Senate's subpoena to appear at the trial.

Morales yesterday said the Om-

MORALES / A6

Ombudsman: Public must report all corrupt acts / A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

18 stay-in workers killed in Butuan fire

By Franklin A. Caligtas
Inquirer Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY—A fire at a three-story clothing store here early Wednesday killed 18 employees, most of whom were women who were asleep and trapped on the top floor.

The fire broke out at 3:05 a.m. and raged for five hours. Firefighters and police scouring the gutted building found 17 bodies, city police chief Pedro Ubaldo said.

Store employee Mylene Tolo, who escaped with two coworkers

STORY / A19

Chief Justice ready to bare all–lawyer

'Corona has reached a point of no return'

By Marlon Ramos

"HE HAS REACHED a point of no return. If he gets convicted, he would gladly accept it. If he gets acquitted, that will be a blessing from God."

Asked if the Chief Justice was prepared to bare all and answer the allegations thrown at him, even the rumors about his purported extramarital affairs, Esguerra replied, "Yes."

In a meeting with his lawyers on Tuesday morning, embattled Chief Justice Renato Corona talked about how he had decided to cross the Rubicon and testify in his impeachment trial after an emotional meeting with his wife, Cristina, and daughter Carla Corona-Castillo.

"The Chief Justice asked for a minute for him to talk with Carla and his wife. We just left them in one room. After that, he met with us in a bigger room," said Ramon Esguerra of the somber gathering in the law office of one of the counsels.

"Before he told us of his decision, we were a little bit anxious because we didn't know what he wanted to tell us. But our faces brightened when he finally announced his decision," Esguerra told the Inquirer.

Carla cried, said Esguerra, "out of pity for her father."

"You have to remember that he had his (heart) bypass operation a few years ago. He's not really in the best of health because he's regularly taking his medications," the lawyer said.

He said Corona, 63, hoped that his appearance, principal

CHIEF / A6

JPE leaves '$10-M' brown envelope untouched ▪ **Corona taking a gamble, says Soltz** / A6
Defense last card: CJ on witness stand / A12

TIT FOR TAT Actress Claudine Barretto and husband Raymart Santiago file countercharges against Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo in a Pasay City court on Wednesday. (See story on Page A19.)

MVP, Razon: Titans clash over oil deal with Sino firm

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PORTS TYCOON Enrique Razon Jr opposing a plan by Philex Mining Corp. chair Manuel Pangilinan to bring in a Chinese company as a partner in tapping natural gas deposits in Reed Bank off the coast of Palawan province.

"Manny Pangilinan's trip to Beijing is on his own account and he does not speak for the other partners in the consortium and any discussion he had with CNOOC (China National Offshore Oil Corp.) is only as far as the share of Pangilinan's group is concerned," said Razon in a text message to the Inquirer.

Razon controls privately held Mono Oro Resources Energy, which has a 30-percent share in Service Contract 72 (SC 72), the state-granted exploration franchise that covers Reed Bank.

Philex Mining, through its subsidiaries PXG Resources Inc. and Philex Petroleum, owns a controlling 64.45-percent share

RAZON / A11

3 Tulfos suspended; Mon takes over

By Allan Policarpio and Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

IN A QUIRKY twist of fate, radio host and Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo will take over Erwin, Rafly and Ben Tulfo as hosts of their daily television program after TV5 suspended his younger brothers yesterday.

The TV network suspended Tulfo's brothers for threatening actor Raymart Santiago and his actress wife Claudine Barretto on their program "Tutok Kay Erwin Tulfo."

Ramon figured in a brawl with the show biz couple and their companions at Terminal 3

TYDINGCO / A19

Raymart, Claudine file countercharges vs Mon Tulfo / A19

'What will America do if China attacks Filipino forces in Spratlys?'

(Editor's Note: This is the official memoric of Foreign Secretary Albert E. del Rosario regarding the Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty.)

IN VIEW of inaccurate information on the subject of whether or not the US is prepared to respond to its commitment to the Philippines under the Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty, the Department of Foreign Affairs would like to establish as a matter of record that:

1. The Philippines and the United States entered into a Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) on August 30, 1951, in Washington, D.C.

2. As stated in the MDT's preamble, both the Philippines and the US desire to publicly declare, through the MDT, their sense of unity and common determination to defend themselves against external armed attack, so that no potential aggressor could be under the illusion that either of them stands alone in the Pacific Area. (Refer to the third paragraph of the MDT's preamble.)

FULL TEXT / A11

Erap moves to Manila to fight Dirty Harry

By Jayrose T. Gural

NO MORE beating around the bush: former President Joseph Estrada is running for mayor of Manila next year.

After weeks of massive but teasing talk, Estrada finally announced his mayoral run after moving to his new home on Mango Avenue in Barangay 681 in Santa Mesa, Manila, yesterday.

Talk of Estrada challenging Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim in next year's midterm elections has been going around since last year. But Estrada always said he was uncertain about running for any office in the 2013 midterms.

But his intentions began to show when he bought the half-hectare property in Santa Mesa recently. He was obviously trying to meet the one-year residency requirement for local candidates.

Yesterday, after moving into his

ERAP / A10

NEW NEIGHBORS Ex-President Joseph Estrada drives a jeepney with Manila Vice Mayor Isko Moreno to his new house in Santa Mesa, Manila.

NEWS
House passes 'sin' tax bill / A3

WORLD
US media report bomber in al-Qaida plot a double agent / A26

NEWS
Laos PM here for 2-day state visit / A9

BUSINESS
Japanese tycoon vows to make Pagcor City casino world's best / B1

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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14 28
15 5

SUPERLOTTO 6/45
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P7,185,815.80

YOUR DIGIT
3 4 3 6

MEGALOTTO 6/58
1 4 5 9 21 28

ULTRA GRAND LOTTO 6/58
8 12 41 46 53 55
P136,855,753.20

Panatag off limits to PH fishers

'SERVING NO PURPOSE'
GMA fights suspension move

By Lolit B. Salaverria

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is now a Pampanga lawmaker, has contested Ombudsman pronouncement moves to have her suspended from office because of her graft cases over the controversial national broadband network deal with China.

Arroyo, in her opposition filed through her lawyers, said her suspension would serve no purpose and that she did not deserve to be prevented from holding office because doing so ground to question the validity of the charges against her.

Arroyo has been charged with two counts of graft and one count for breach of ethics in connection with her approval of the $329 MBN project with China's ZTE Corporation, a deal that was later canceled amid allegations of bribery and overpricing.

The former president's cases are pending before the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division.

In her opposition, she said the 90-day suspension that the prosecution is seeking would deprive her constituents in Pampanga's second district of representation in congress.

She said the acts involved in her cases were allegedly committed when she was the president, not when she was Pampanga representative. Thus, the actions involved were unrelated to her functions as a lawmaker.

She also said that the reasoning that the suspension would prevent a public officer from tampering the prosecution, intimidating witnesses or tampering with evidence hardly applies in her case.

No private affair

She pointed out that she is incarcerated and detained.

"The probability of the happening of the dangers sought to be prevented is next to nil," she said.

"Furthermore, insofar as Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo is concerned, it is not anymore about her private interests, rather, to suspend her is to deprive the Second District of Pampanga representation in the House of Representatives," she added.

Arroyo also said that to suspend public officers, there must be a valid information or charge sheet against them.

She said that just because she was arraigned does not mean that the information filed against her were valid. There must be a preliminary hearing held to determine the validity of the information to preventively suspend her, she added.

'Questionable'

She also said the earlier resolutions of the Office of the Ombudsman, which had cleared her of any liability in the JDR transaction, had not been vacated and have become final.

The later Ombudsman resolution, which indicted Arroyo for graft and led to the filing of the charges, is questionable since it was based on the same set of facts under which she was cleared of liability, she added.

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora and Cathy Yamsuan

THE MUNICIPAL government of Masinloc, Zambales, is standing by local fishermen's claim that they are being barred from fishing in the Lagoon of the Panatag Shoal in the face of Malacañang's denial yesterday that Chinese vessels were preventing the fishermen from entering the disputed territory.

Citing reports from the Philippine Coast Guard, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday said that while there were a Chinese vessel in the Philippine-claimed shoal, the Chinese have not been driving away Filipino fishermen trying to fish there.

"There is no attempt on the part of the Chinese to prevent the Filipino fishermen from fishing in Panatag Shoal. That's very clear according to [PCG Chief] Admiral Tan," Lacierda said.

'Just perception'

"Perhaps, it's because of the perception brought about by a Chinese vessel in front of the shoal, Filipinos thought they are being prevented," he told a Palace briefing.

In Sta. Rosa, Bataan, the secretary of Masinloc Mayor Desiree Edora, elected that the Coast Guard is apparently not in touch with the fishermen.

"What I told you is based on the report of our fishermen. That is not our opinion," Bautista told reporters in a phone interview yesterday.

"Now if the Coast Guard has another report because they claim to be in the area, that's another thing. Because if you ask our fishermen, the Coast Guard is the farthest where they see," he added.

He said local fishermen reported the situation to the local government unit (LGU) after they did not get any response from the local Coast Guard.

"The problem is that the Coast Guard does not cooperate," Bautista said.

On the other hand, local military personnel are regularly in touch with the fishermen and are therefore aware of the latest reports from the fishermen, he said.

The Panatag Shoal—which locals call Bajo de Masinloc, and is internationally referred to as Scarborough Shoal—area is under the jurisdiction of the Naval Forces Northern Luzon, which is under the operational jurisdiction of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Lacierda denial

Lacierda also denied that there are now more than 30 Chinese vessels in the Panatag Shoal, a chain of reefs and rocks off Zambales whose ownership is being disputed by the Philippines and China.

Vessels from the two countries have been on a stand-off in the shoal since April 10 following the discovery by a Philippine Navy vessel of illegally obtained turtles, baby sharks, giant clams and corals on board eight Chinese fishing vessels on April 8. The Navy dispatched a warship to the area but before the BRP Gregorio del Pilar could now the poachers in the custom police state, two Chinese maritime ships arrived and blocked their way.

The military has since reported that there has been a build-up of Chinese vessels in the area which have risen increased to 33 from 14 last week.

Lacierda said this was not true, again quoting from Tan.

"There was a statement that there were almost 300 I identified it with Commodore Edmund Tan of the Philippine Coast Guard. There are only seven fishing vessels and two PCG and two maritime vessels, so they're 11," he said.

"The 23 that was reported are not really vessels but rubber boats. So it's not 33—those rubber boats are part of the fishing vessels," he said.

Guarin denial

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin also denied the report that Filipino fishermen are being barred from the lagoon, also quoting Tan.

He also played down the reported rumoring of Chinese maritime ships and fishing vessels in the Panatag Shoal.

"There are times they have more fishermen. There are times we have more fishermen," he claimed.

"But their maritime surveillance ships are always there. We're no match for them," Gazmin said.

Only the Coast Guard's BRP Sibu II and a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel stood guard in the Panatag Shoal.

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez yesterday said the DFA is not to underestimate a "new diplomatic initiative" aimed at defusing tensions between the Philippines and China over the Panatag Shoal.

However, the foreign office is "not prepared to discuss this as of this time," Hernandez said.

Grabbing the place

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday warned that the presence of 30 Chinese vessels in the disputed Panatag Shoal means that China is bent on taking it from the Philippines.

Enrile said reports that the numbers of Chinese vessels in Panatag had increased 10-fold since tensions began a month ago "is already an indication that China is grabbing the place from us."

"We must prepare. We better buy our weapons, our means of defense," the senator said.

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DILG: Not enough evidence vs 3rd Dominguez brother

By DJ Yap

THERE was still not enough evidence to link another Dominguez brother arrested recently to the cases of Raymund and Rizza Dominguez cum to the killing of taxi salesman Alfred Mendiola and two other men, Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo said yesterday.

Bulacan policemen arrested Ryan Dominguez, 26, along with two other men, on Tuesday in Malolos, Bulacan, for illegal possession of firearms, explosives and drugs.

"But he was not arrested because he is being accused of involvement in the killing of Mendiola and (Jeneza) Evangelista," I am not even sure if he is," Robredo in January 2011 by the group of Roger and Raymund.

Robredo, however, said that a ballistics analysis of the .45-cal pistol found in the possession of Ryan and his companions was being done to determine if this was the weapon used in the killing of Mendiola, whose supposedly gunned down the older Dominguez brother and helped put them behind bars.

Two M-16 rifles were also reportedly found in the group's possession.

Mendiola and two others, Mark Herrera and Rolando Asunguin, were found dead, bound and gagged in Dasmariñas City in Cavite province on Sunday morning. The three victims each have a gunshot in the head from a .45-cal. pistol.

The Dominguez brothers, alleged leaders of a car theft syndicate based in Bulacan province, are facing car theft with homicide charges for the killing of Evangelista, and another car dealer, Emerson Lozano, in separate incidents in January 2011.

Senior Inspector Don Dido De Dios, public information officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said cross-matching would be done on the evidences recovered from Ryan.

"The recovered items there will also be examined and compared to those found on (Mendiola) to determine if there's a connection, but we're not immediately connecting the Ryan Dominguez case to his brothers," he said.

Lawyer Jose Diaz, counsel for Raymund, said the police might have planted Ryan under surveillance because Raymund had been implicated in the murder of Mendiola.

As this developed, the trial of Raymund's other cases will soon be conducted inside the New Bilibid Prison.

The order reaffirmed yesterday by Assistant City Prosecutor Raymundo Ocampo Jr., a member of the prosecution panel.

"As a matter of policy, a convict, who is facing another case, cannot be brought out for hearings to set hold. He heard of whatever he is detained," Ocampo explained. With reports from Carmela Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon and Nancy Carvajal

'Sin tax' bill sails through; foes claim railroading

By Gil C. Cabacungan

ALLIES of President Aquino were in full force at the House wee and committee hearing yesterday to approve the proposed reforms in taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks, the so-called sin tax, that have been stymied for the past 16 years.

The decision by the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC) party of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, majority owner of market leader San Miguel Beer, to support House Bill No. 5727 and the last minute compromise changes to the proposed sin tax reforms provided the breakthrough, House leaders said.

HB 5727 seeks to restructure the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products, a much-needed revenue reform bill that is meant to boost the the flagging collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Midnight 1 linking to the Northern Luzon bloc which opposed the sin tax reforms because of the ill effects on tobacco growers in one region, I had no choice but to vote for it because the NPC wanted a solid vote," said Isabela Rep. Gwendl Sagabaen, the committee vice chair.

Committee members voted 46 to 14, with one abstention, to pass the bill shortly after finance undersecretary Jeremias Paul unveiled at the hearing the changes made to HB 5727—adopt a tiered tax system from the original proposal of ordinary tax system to replace the current four tier system, replace proof per liter with retail price as basis for taxation; and abolish the tax advantage given to sin brands.

Members of the Northern Luzon bloc and the minority denounced the "railroading" of the sin tax bill which they described as the "Lavoisa Express," a reference to the sugar estate owned by the President's family.

"This is unfair, we should be allowed to study these amendments," said Nueva Ecija Rep. Carlos Padilla who stated that the committee "have been debating the bill for the past six months.

Zambales Rep. Hermogen Magsaysay said that this was no difference from the "express" impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona which was filed, signed, certified, approved and transmitted to the Senate in less than 5 hours last December.

"We are appalled by this brazen, unabashed move to railroad the approval of the sin tax bill. We have not yet even discussed at length the considerable damage that this measure would inflict on our economy and the livelihood of millions of Filipinos dependent on the tobacco and alcohol industries. Should we just ignore the warning and voices of concern aired by various sectors were this ill-conceived bill?" said Magsaysay.

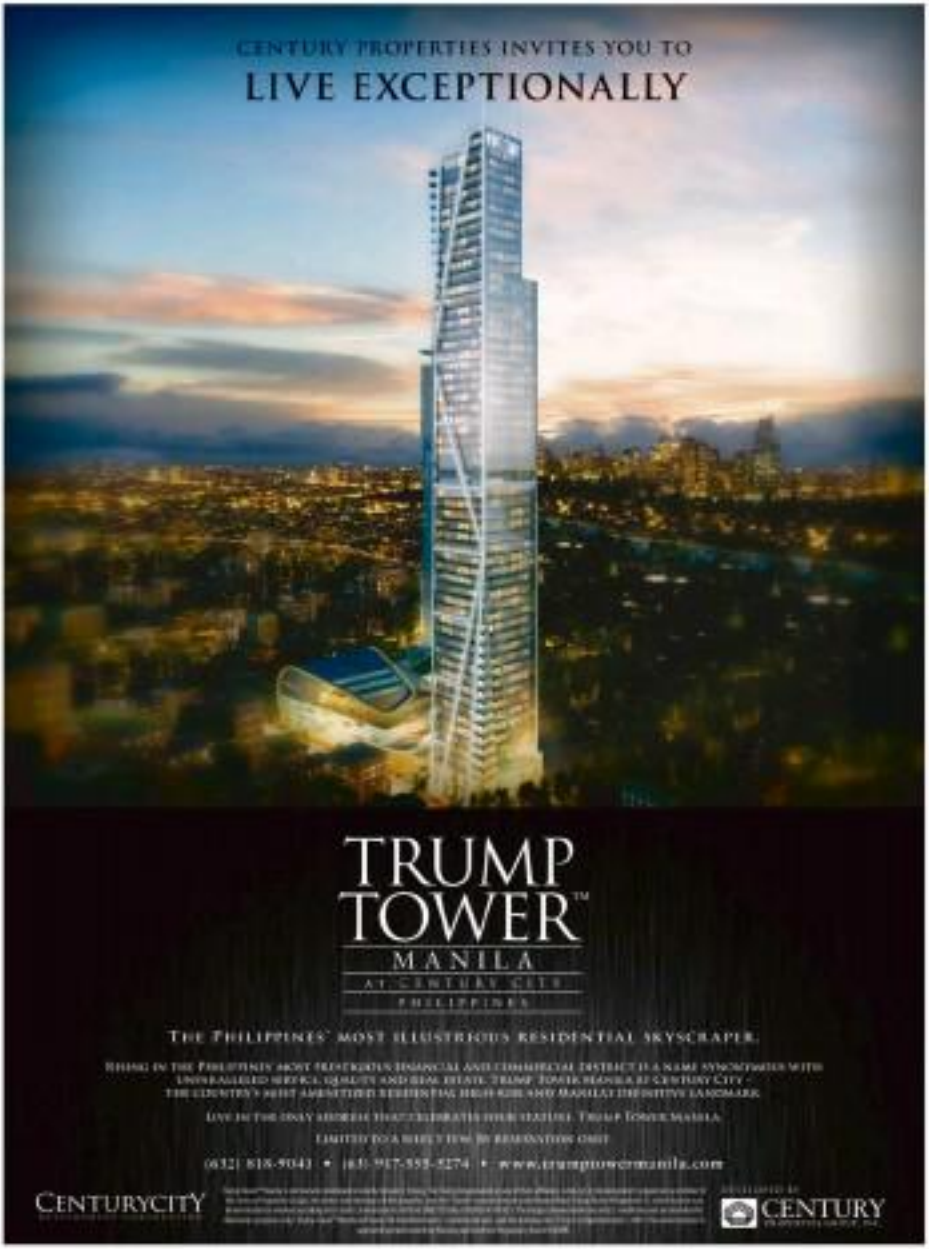
Even a member of the administration coalition, Assistant Majority Leader Magsaysay Garrigando, said he did not agree with the move of his peers. Garrigando maintained that the sin tax bill would burden the local tobacco and liquor industries while benefiting imported brands with lower taxes.

Bicol Sol Rep. Elis Bilgasis is dismayed that Cavite Rep. Joseph E.S. Abaya, the author of HB 5727, had sent text messages to committee members on the eve of Tuesday's meeting which said that the President had requested their attendance and to support and vote for the sin tax bill. Abaya did not reply to the reporter's query.

Manuel Blanche, the presidential legislative liaison officer, was visibly active in the sidelines during the hearing, taking a headcount of the bill's supporters.

Rudy Salango, president of the Philippine Tobacco Institute, said they got a hint of the plan to railroad the bill when ways and means committee chair and Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab boldly announced last week that the sin tax would be approved "before we adjourn sine die on June 8."

In a statement, Abaya revealed Mr. Aquino's "political will" in inspiring the passage of the bill, transcending multi-partisanship.



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Schedule of Activities

May 10, 2012

7:30 am — THANKSGIVING MASS
St. Ferdinand Cathedral
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10:00 am — Official Visit
Duska Nagalyudkin Bni Tuanku Ja'afar
of Malaysia's Visit to:
- Gov. Faustino N. Dy Memorial Hospital
- Lingap Center
- Women and Children Protection Center

12:00 nn — LUNCHEON in honor of
Official Visit
Duska Nagalyudkin Bni Tuanku Ja'afar
Venue: Roleg, Isabela Provincial Capitol Compound

7:00 pm — CULTURAL NIGHT
Guest of Honor:
Official Visit
Duska Nagalyudkin Bni Tuanku Ja'afar
Venue: Faustino N. Dy Session Hall
Isabela Provincial Capitol

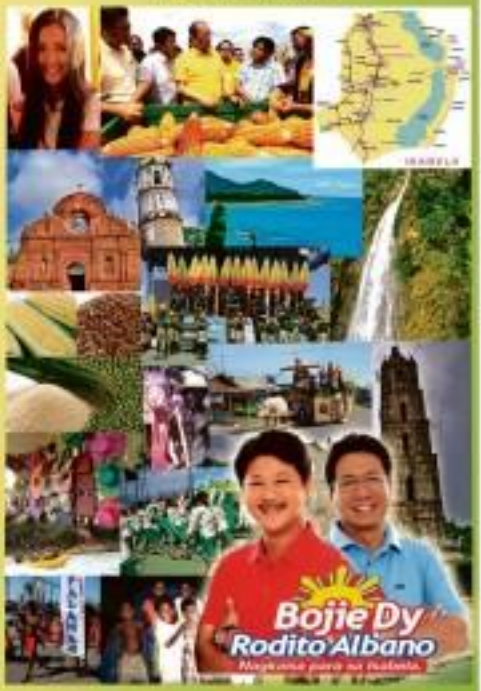
8:00 pm — FREE CONCERT
Venue: Isabela Sports Complex

May 11, 2012

7:00 am — GRAND FLOAT PARADE

5:00 pm — SEARCH FOR MOST OUTSTANDING ISABELANO 2012
Awarding Ceremonies
Venue: Faustino N. Dy Session Hall
Isabela Provincial Capitol

7:00 pm — SEARCH FOR MISS ISABELA 2012
Grand Coronation Night
Venue: Isabela Sports Complex



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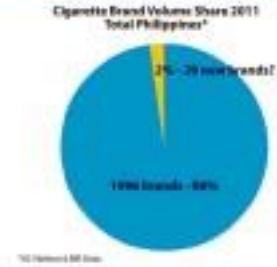
TOBACCO SIN TAX REFORM

Exposing the Lies and Hypocrisy -- Part I

Several opponents of the Aquino Administration's efforts to reform the existing tobacco excise system have consistently distorted the truth in an attempt to deceive and mislead the policymakers and the general public. In doing so, they peddle lies and adopt hypocritical tactics in order to keep the protection and profits they enjoy under the prevailing excise system.

Lie #1: The current excise tax system does not stifle competition since 29 new brands have entered the market since 1997.

The Truth: This is a blatant example of intellectual dishonesty on the part of those against excise tax reform. Indeed, new brands have attempted to enter the market since 1997 but none of these brands have been successful in gaining market share because they are penalized by higher tax rates than competitive old "1996" brands. The barrier to entry is nowhere more evident than in the fact that 1996 brands, all beneficiaries of the "classification protection" in the current system, control 98% of the market!



Lie # 2: Sin Tax Reform will favour imported brands over local brands, or big players over small players.

The Truth: This is a detestable attempt to sow false fear among tobacco farmers and industry workers. Both the existing law and the pending reform bills in Congress do not make a distinction between imported brands or local brands, let alone big companies or small companies. What the reform bills seek to correct is the advantage enjoyed by "old" brands over "new" brands, regardless of whether the new brands are local or imported.

To illustrate the inequity of the current system:

THIS SYSTEM OF TAXATION PROTECTS THE OLD PLAYERS FROM ANY NEW COMPETITION, WHETHER IMPORTED OR LOCALLY MANUFACTURED. IT WORKS WELL FOR A MONOPOLY BUT NOT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHICH LOSES BILLIONS IN FOREGONE REVENUES; THE INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS ESPECIALLY TOBACCO FARMERS WHO ARE DENIED ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL BUYERS; AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO ARE DEPRIVED THE BENEFITS OF OPEN MARKET COMPETITION.

IT IS VERY CLEAR WHAT SOME OPPONENTS OF EXCISE REFORM AND ITS SUPPORTERS CARE ABOUT. IT IS NOT THE HEALTH OF THE FILIPINO NATION OR ECONOMY, NEITHER THE PRINCIPLES OF AN OPEN AND FREE MARKET. IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN PROTECTING THEIR FAT WALLETS.

STOP THE LIES AND THE HYPOCRISY! END THE MONOPOLY IN THE PHILIPPINE CIGARETTE INDUSTRY! SUPPORT THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION'S TOBACCO EXCISE REFORM PROGRAM!

CONCERNED ENTREPRENEURS AGAINST MONOPOLIES

PH gets $65M in new US aid for 5-year growth program

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE UNITED States has set aside $65 million (about P2.75 billion) in fresh development aid in the Philippines under the two allies' five-year Partnership for Growth, or PFG program, according to the US Embassy in Manila.

In a statement posted on its website, the embassy said the funds would go to priority projects of the Aquino administration, including its improved Family Health and Mindanao peace and development programs.

Under the PFG, Washington will "support priorities outlined by President Aquino in his Social Contract with the Filipino people and the Philippine Development Plan, to achieve accelerated, sustained and inclusive growth," the embassy said.

The mission quoted Gloria Steele, head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Philippines, as saying the PFG "will be carried out in the spirit of mutual responsibility embracing commitments by the Philippine and US governments to take the necessary actions to promote inclusive growth."

On May 5, Steele joined visiting Deputy Administrator Beth Ann Steinberg in signing three PFG-related agreements with Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Health Secretary Enrique Ona and Mindanao Development Authority Chair Luwalhati Antonino.

Steinberg said these agreements will support the implementation of programs that provide inclusive growth under the PFG, enhance the delivery of health services in support of the Philippines' universal health care ambition and improve local governance and stimulate community-driven development in Mindanao.

The US Department of State has referred to the PFG as a "signature interagency effort of President Obama's Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development, which elevates sustainable growth in countries committed to good governance to a core priority for US development efforts."

"The PFG aligns with policy reforms put in place by President Aquino to the Philippine Development Plan," it noted.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based agency, the PFG "initiatives address the most significant constraints to growth and to stimulate substantial, inclusive economic expansion. A rigorous point analysis identified governance and fiscal space as the top constraints to growth in the Philippines."

Manila and Washington "have affirmed a five-year Joint Country Action Plan that prioritizes creating a more transparent, predictable and consistent legal and regulatory regime; fostering a more open and competitive business environment; strengthening the rule of law and increasing efficiency in the court system; and supporting fiscal stability through better revenue and expenditure management."

Text scammers using Binay's name

By Jerry E. Esplanada

TEXT SCAMMERS are really persistent.

With new text messages linking his office to another supposed raffle promising Vice President Jejomar Binay issued a statement yesterday asking the public to ignore the messages.

"Beware of text scams," Binay said. "Don't believe these messages. Don't allow yourselves to become victims."

Binay deplored the persistence of the scammers. "It's sad that there are people who take advantage of others, and that they use my name to fool other people," Binay said.

His statement said "the Office of the Vice President neither engages in raffles nor has a cash assistance program. Text messages saying otherwise are bogus and should be ignored."

The statement said those who received cash grab messages from anyone the OVP (at +63 (02) 6951 local 105 or 306, or at ovp@ovp.gov.ph) for verification."

Binay has ordered an investigation of the scam, which has cost an unidentified resident of General Santos City P900,000, it said.

Joey Hidalgo, Binay's spokesperson and media officer, said the OVP had asked the National Bureau of Investigation for assistance in the investigation.

"We are waiting for the NBI report," Salgado told the Inquirer.

The latest scam to crash our text messages (last read): "[NOTICE from Arjomar Binay re: SIM # have won 868,000! 09-03-12 pls. call Katherine L. Madrigal re this # 09128930837 (Auditor of the Phil. Fund) DTI-NCR permit # 4611."

Binay's name has been used several times in fraud involving text messaging since he assumed office in 2010. The scammers are not Internet hits (the following):

■ "(1-M)Senator's Club Office of the Phils. informing us that as early/ seven (7) subscribers of Binay 2013 Presidential Bid. Please call me now. I'm Atty. Vic L.Dolera."

■ "NOTICE re sim card # won PHP868,000 ur 2nd anniversary raffle draw . From Millionaires Club- 6 Vice President Binay Please call me L. DSILVA."

■ "Congratulations!! Ur SIM# had won P868,000 + Sony laptop. From SMART/PLDT/SUN/GLOBE/ABS-CBN/ 6 more info, call me now Atty Jun A. Garcia DTI # OLDB/under 2011."

JPE leaves '$10-M' brown envelope untouched

By Cathy Yamsuan

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile has not touched the brown envelope allegedly containing proof that Chief Justice Renato Corona has stashed $10 million in undeclared wealth.

Enrile said he has not met the media's "scariest Mr. Bell" who handed over the envelope to his staff.

"I have never met him. The reporter was given to my receiving clerk. I told them to just keep (the contents) in the envelope," Enrile said in an interview yesterday.

Enrile, presiding officer of Corona's impeachment trial, has signaled a subpoena controversy. Harvey Keh, lead convener of the civil society group "Kaya Natin!," Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and

Enrile said the subpoena for Keh, although requested by Corona's lawyers, was also based on the merit of the unexplained wealth case that Keh had filed against the Chief Justice.

A prank?

"(Keh) filed the complaint (against the Chief Justice) I understand as I had him subpoenaed," the Senate President said.

"I don't know whether he would say anything interesting. I don't know what information he has," Enrile added.

Keh got in touch with at least two business reporters on Monday morning with an offer to provide information about Corona's supposed dollar deposits.

In his call to this reporter, Keh said on the phone that he could not ascertain the authenticity of the documents.

Keh added that the documents were sent anonymously to a brown envelope to his office.

In an interview with a Chief Inquirer reporter Tuesday night, Keh reiterated that he was suspicious about the authenticity of the documents and said that the whole thing would just be a "prank."

Corona taking a gamble but is a good move, says Sotto

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona is taking a gamble in opening to face his accusers, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday.

Sotto acknowledged that Corona's appearance in his impeachment trial could greatly influence voting in the 23-member Senate-tribunal on his fate.

He said 13 to 15 senator-judges remained "undecided" and would await the response of the Chief Justice to allegations he has $10 million in his bank deposits.

"Sir that big bulk of undecided, the Bandung (persuasion) would be circled and to include the Chief Justice. I think, is a very good move on the part of the defense," he told the reporters in an interview a day after Corona's camp announced that he would take the witness stand.

In an informal gathering early this week, a number of senators tackled the possibility that 10 of them might already be leaning toward acquitting Corona.

"If you will notice, there are

source present in the affair, but who was not authorized to discuss the matter to public.

Given the supposed number, the prosecution would still need six votes to secure a conviction. Corona needs only eight votes to be acquitted.

By Sotto's reckoning, only three to four senators appear to have made up their mind on convicting the Chief Justice. He mentioned the same estimate for senators seemingly leaning toward acquitting Corona.

"If you will notice, there are highly polarized members of the Senate in one view and in the reading of the people it there are three to four on either side who would be hard to convince otherwise, who seem decided already," he said.

Undecided groups

Sotto said the undecided groups include the bloc of five, six (President Juan Ponce) Enrile, for which Enrile belongs, and the Nacionalista Party (NP) bloc of Sen. Manuel Villar.

The Enrile group includes Senator Gregorio Honasan and Jinggoy Estrada. Villar's NP bloc includes Senators Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Loren Legarda, Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor Santiago, and siblings Alan and Pia Cayetano.

"In the moment, we are open-minded," he said, but added he was unsure whether the Villar group would "vote as a bloc."

"I presume that most of those will (decide) after they've heard fully the defense," Sotto said.

Ramon Esguerra, one of Corona's defense assistants, refused to buy into the numbers game.

"Neither the Chief Justice nor anyone's concern.

Public assistance desks

But of the move to get the public involved was the setting up of public assistance desks at local government offices in Metro Manila to receive complaints and provide assistance in getting their claims from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

The Office of the Ombudsman would also embark on a payroll verification exercise to weed out ghost employees in its own offices. Similar exercises would be done in other cities, towns and provinces.

Courtesies due CJ

"We are now going to be abusive or disrespectful. We will grant the request of the lawyers of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. There's no one who will insult him or be rude to him. We will treat him with utmost deference," Enrile said.

The same goes with the Ombudsman, Enrile said.

"That we achieve a quorum is presumed to them, it's up to them to answer or not. If they don't answer, there is an implication of no answer. If they answer, there is an implication of answer," he said.

Nonexclusive is issue

The senators said there was no need to amend the impeachment complaint because the alleged $10 million would fall under the allegation of unexplained wealth.

"If there is $10 million in the account, the characterization of that amount regarding its source is immaterial. We only characterize it to assert. Was it included in the SALN or not? We're talking about nonexclusive," Enrile said.

Defiers said: "The issue is the failure to report the assets. If indeed the assets are shown to be disproportionate and that is not reported in the SALN, there commences a presumption under Section 8 of the anti-graft law that is a fit ground."

Pimentel said that even the defense admitted that the $10 million might be construed as ill-gotten and hence, should be explained.

"The presumption of ill-gotten wealth kicks in if sufficient evidence is already in. That should be the concern of the defense," he said.

Chief Justice ready to bare all when he testifies--lawyer

From page A1

pully in reply to charges that he had $10 million in foreign currency deposits, would be a "turning point."

"I really don't know to what way this can influence each of the senators. But I presume that from a number of them to take a stand was considered by the Chief Justice," he said.

Corona, who appeared indignant during the hearing, had declined to testify before the senator-judges.

Instead, he opted to file a motion to quash the subpoenas and granted a two-day break requested. The trial, which started on Jan. 16, resumes on Monday.

The defense lawyers said the decision to testify was made after Corona's new copies of documents submitted to the Senate court by Harvey Keh, leader of a good governance advocacy group and a supporter of President Aquino. The papers purportedly showed that Corona had amassed $10 million in his bank accounts, the lawyers said.

Enrile factored in decision

Corona has denied the existence of the supposed accounts and now maintained that the documents are fabricated, the lawyers said.

Also a factor in the decision to testify was the hastening the defense got on Monday as the examination of the trial after a six-

Morales said yesterday she would testify in the hearing.

Enrile agreed to issue the subpoenas and granted a two-day break requested. The trial, which started on Jan. 16, resumes on Monday.

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Morales to testify

Defense lawyers during the trial on Tuesday afternoon announced that Corona would testify if the Senate tribunal subpoenaed Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and 11 others in connection with the purported dollar and euro deposits

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A prank?

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In his call to this reporter, Keh said on the phone that he could

Morales: I will tell everything about the $10M account

From page A1

Inahumal's mandate was to evaluate the three complaints filed against Corona before her office to see if they can give leads to charges.

She said it was also her mandate to ask Corona to respond to the complaints and she believed that there was a need for further investigation.

"If the Ombudsman believes that after evaluating the complaints and the supporting documents, that there is ground to recommend impeachment, I want to emphasize the word further—investigation, then we notify the respondents, the impeachable official or answer or comment on the complaint," Morales said.

Under the law, the respondent should submit a comment within 72 hours from receipt of the Ombudsman's directive.

"I will tell everything there is material and relevant to my request for the CJ in answering," she said.

She said that as of Tuesday, Corona had filed no answer to the complaints. She added that he may have sent one by mail and if he did, it might still be on the way to the agency.

"If I am subpoenaed by the Senate, I will obey the Senate," Morales said reporters as the Agham Road in Quezon City for the Office of the Ombudsman's indignation march against corruption, among the activities for the agency's 24th anniversary.

"It is just right for a citizen to obey the orders of duly constituted authorities," said Morales, before she is flanked by Deputy Ombudsmen Globy Loreto, Alfred Concepcion, Ernan Francis Cabcaban, Moses Alberto and Emmanuel Caparoso. Field officials and representatives against Corona in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The request of Corona's camp to subpoena the Ombudsman was made after it came to light that she had asked the Chief Justice to respond to allegations that he kept $10 million in foreign currency accounts, an amount supposedly disproportionate to his income.

Corona has denied having $10 million in his accounts and has claimed that the Ombudsman has no jurisdiction over him.

Corona to testify

Defense counsel Jose Roy III said the Senate on Tuesday that Corona would testify on the $10 million, and requested that the impeachment court subpoena Morales and 10 others in connection with the alleged foreign currency accounts.

The defense said that it would prove that the Chief Justice was not keeping $10 mil-

lion to hide accounts and that the Ombudsman's inquiry into the accounts overlapped with the impeachment trial.

Net worth

Corona is accused of failing to disclose his assets and shares, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and his wealth. Invoking the Philippine Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Ombudsman's indignation march against corruption for its 24th anniversary.

The 70-year-old Morales herself joined the march, walking from her office on Agham Road to the elliptical road in Quezon City.

The Ombudsman said her agency was continuing its fight against corruption and would do so despite opposition. The indignation rally was part of its efforts to raise public awareness about the issue.

"Why indignation? We are indignant because the curse of corruption does not seem to end. It has hindered us for years on end, but there seems to be no end in sight of this corruption," she said.

She expressed the hope that citizens would take part in the fight against corruption, which she said should be everyone's concern.

Public assistance desks

But of the move to get the public involved was the setting up of public assistance desks at local government offices in Metro Manila to receive complaints and provide assistance in getting their claims from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

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Courtesies due CJ

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"The presumption of ill-gotten wealth kicks in if sufficient evidence is already in. That should be the concern of the defense," he said.

Ombudsman: Public must report all corrupt acts

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PUBLIC must join the fight against corruption and should report all such instances to authorities so that something can be done about it, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales said yesterday.

Morales said a survey commissioned by the Office of the Ombudsman showed that 32 percent of some 25,000 citizens had reported experiencing corruption.

But out of those who were asked in pay lanes, 99 percent did not report the incident to authorities.

The survey on experience with corruption in the country was initiated two years ago and was conducted by the National Statistics Office. It was a follow to the 2010 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey conducted by the NSO.

Awareness

"I hope that we will encourage all persons who are asked to give grease money to report them because if they do not report, what can we do? It is as if we are celebrating the incidents of corruption," Morales said in a speech at the Quezon City Circle after the Office of the Ombudsman's indignation march against corruption for its 24th anniversary.

The 70-year-old Morales herself joined the march, walking from her office on Agham Road to the elliptical road in Quezon City.

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Laos PM here for 2-day state visit

LAOS Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong is arriving today for a two-day state visit to the Philippines.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday that Thongsing is visiting the country on the invitation of President Aquino.

This is Thongsing's first visit to the Philippines as prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (or Laos), a statement from the DFA said.

President Aquino and Thongsing "will discuss bilateral cooperation and partnerships in promoting people-to-people and institutional exchanges," the department said.

"They will also exchange views on regional issues including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Europe Meeting," the department said. It added that Manila and Vientiane "have been enjoying 37 years of bilateral relations."

Thongsing will visit the International Rice Research Institute, the Asian Institute of Management and the Asian Development Bank, the department said. Jerry E. Esplanada

Airlines want key airports open 24/7

AIRLINE companies have urged the government to operate all key airports, not just Ninoy Aquino International, on a 24/7 basis to make the country more tourist friendly and to help decongest Manila.

They said the present nine-shift system, which starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m., is too hectic and is also inefficient as caused by airport customs, immigration, and quarantine (CIQ) personnel to change tarmac shifts for overtime. Airport customs had expanded this unilaterally to include meals and transportation allowances.

Bryant Aquino, spokesperson of the Board of Airline Representatives (BAR), said the move will certainly boost the country's campaign to project itself as a major tourist destination and an important regional player.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, in head of the economic cluster, recently ordered CIQ officials to discontinue the outdated one-shift practice and go on three shifts/24/7.

BAR, in a press statement, welcomed the move and hoped the organized hassles for a would be relaxed soon.

In 2005, customs personnel doubled their fees on account of the doubling of the peso-dollar rate from around P56 to P52. BAR balked at the increase and went to court, arguing that the customs personnel were government employees, not clerks.

But BAR continued paying immigration and quarantine, which did not double their overtime billings.

Purisima's order, Aquino said, should apply to all CIQ personnel and divisions not just in Manila but also in other international gateways including the airports in Cebu, Puerto Princesa, Cagayan de Oro and Kalibo.

Before Purisima, former Customs Commissioner Lito Alvarez ordered the adoption of three shifts in Manila effective January 2011. Airport customs personnel, however, continued the present set up and kept sending bills to the airlines for overtime.

BAR also said should all key airports go on 24/7 mode, airlines can fly directly to their destinations, bypassing Manila, without overtime charges. "A right step toward making the country more competitive and biz friendly congressman."

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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Bukidnon's Pulangi power plant back on stream

By Ailyn R. Barlas

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. (Napocor) has finally completed the rehabilitation of the Pulangi IV hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon, a move seen to finally ease the rotating power blackouts that have been plaguing Mindanao since the beginning of the year.

This means that the Pulangi IV can now generate as much as 250 megawatts during the evening peak hours, the state-run power generator said in a statement.

Before the repair work was done, the hydropower facility was generating only 98 MW during the off-peak period and a maximum of 140 MW during peak hours, out of its original installed capacity of 253 MW.

Napocor said the P7.13-million rehabilitation was completed last May 6, or nine days ahead of the original target date of May 15, thus boosting prospects that the tight power supply situation in Mindanao will finally normalize soon.

As of yesterday, the Mindanao grid posted a power supply deficit of 187 MW, slightly lower than the levels of previous weeks, when the shortage was more than 200 MW.

This was the first time that the Pulangi hydropower plant underwent major repair works since it started operating in 1966.

PULANGI IV by Mindanao it is power plant

Napocor president Froilan A. Sampilo said the repair of the 26-year-old power plant was completed earlier than scheduled because of the concerted efforts of the state generator's operations personnel and Mitsubishi Construction, the contractor for the rehab project.

"Our plans presented as Pulangi IV worked 24/7 with our private contractor to bring the power plant back on line at the earliest time possible, and for this we commend them," Sampilo said.

Officials' data from Napocor's Mindanao generation group showed that Unit 1 of Pulangi IV was energized at 2:02 p.m. on Tuesday, while Unit 2 went on line by 5:15 p.m. the same day. The third and final unit was synchronized with the Mindanao grid at 6:38 p.m., also on Tuesday.

Napocor had shut down Pulangi IV last April 17 to pave the way for the repair of the plant's headrace channel and surge pool, as well as for the preventive maintenance servicing (PMS) of the facility's three turbine generator units. It was estimated that the rehab work would take 30 days.

During the rehabilitation, Napocor was able to remove the sediment of the headrace channel and the surge pool during operation. The 0.5-kilometer-long headrace channel is that part of the power plant where the water that is used to run Pulangi IV passes through before going to the turbine generator units.

The rehabilitation project has been in Napocor's weak program as early as last year, when major defects such as massive scouring were first noticed on the headrace channel. The repair works could not be postponed any longer as these were found to get more expensive the longer that they are delayed, Napocor officials said.

CBCP condemns radioman's slay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday condemned the murder of a Catholic radio reporter in Davao Oriental on Tuesday and urged government and authorities to look into the incident, the third to occur against a member of the media in a span of 15 days.

Nestor Libatan, a reporter of the Catholic-run dxDE (Ang Radyo Totoo), an affiliate of the Catholic Media Network, was shot seven times by three men on board a motorbike as he was leaving Tarragona, Davao Oriental, on Tuesday.

Libatan and a colleague Elito Diaz, had just attended a Bonta conference and were on their way home in Mati City on board a motorcycle when the radio reporter was gunned down.

CBCP president Lolo Archbishop Jose Palma said the Church knows why was murdered by the murder of Libatan, reportedly when it had reported a few days prior the Church's celebration of World Communications Sunday.

"We are saddened because we know how important communication is and the celebration of the World Communications Sunday is a way of reminding us that as Christians, it is our duty to proclaim and to communicate the teachings of Jesus," Palma said over Church-run Radio Veritas yesterday.

The senior prelate also called on yesterday Philippine National Police chief Director General Nicanor Bartolome and Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to give attention to Libatan's case and give justice to the slain reporter.

According to the CBCPNews, the official news service of the Church hierarchy, Libatan did not have any controversy program; since it was the station's policy "not to discuss sensitive controversial issues on air."

CBCPNews also said Libatan was the third member of media killed within the last 15 days. The others were identified as Rommel Palma, murdered in Koronadal City on April 24 and Michael Calimoayan in Lagunia on April 26.

Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz yesterday said he was already expecting the rise in the number of extrajudicial killings in the country, especially among members of the media since the Aquino administration was showing signs of "weakness" in implementing the law.

Cruz said over Radio Veritas that the culture of impunity and violence in the country will not end if the government would not act to curb it.

Trust Pinays to make wise choice on RH, says CNN hero

By TJ Burgonio

LIM

FILIPINO women should be trusted to make "wise choices" on their reproductive health and their families', 2011 CNN Hero of the Year Filipino-American Rubie Lim said yesterday.

With 9M women dying every day around the world from complications in pregnancies and childbirth, Lim called for support for women "to make wise choices within their cultures."

"We really need to give women their own choices, we need to trust women to make wise choices for themselves or their families," she told reporters at a forum initiated by Representative Rodolfo Valles against the proabortion Health Alliance, there is a war going over the Reproductive Health bill and whenever there's a war there are victims. When people fight there are victims and the victims here are women and babies."

At a roundtable, Lim said she hoped to see women "choosing to be pregnant or not to be pregnant" and not letting pregnancies if they choose to do so, regardless of their faith.

"But it is up to our lawmakers to support them in those choices. It is human right; health care is a human right," she said.

It's about time Filipinos stopped the bickering and banded together "to come up with a comprehensive health program for every one," Lim said. "I don't think anyone wants mothers or babies to die so let's ask everyone on both sides to join hands in peace."

The Senate read a resolution commending Lim, a certified professional midwife, for the recognition she got from the CNN in December 2011 for helping thousands of women have healthy pregnancies and safe births through her nonprofit, Indonesia-based maternal health clinic.

The resolution, introduced by Sen. Pia Cayetano, said Lim was an inspiration to Filipinos and a "shining example to each of us."

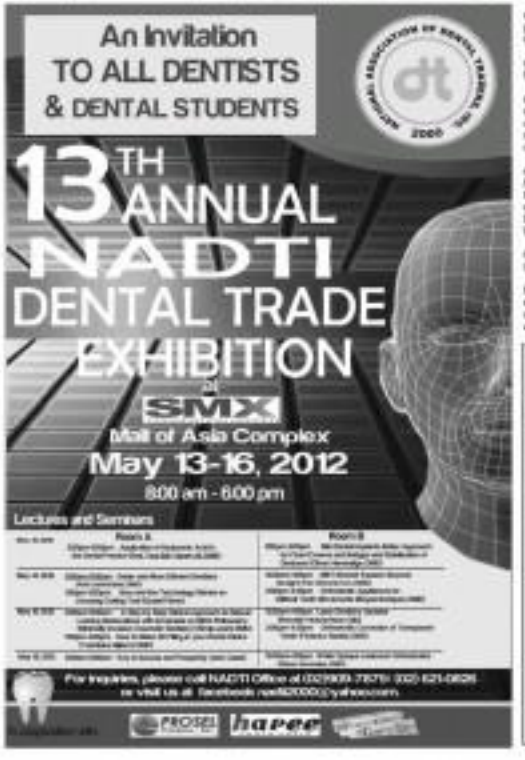
"Lim's selfless services and goodness of heart has earned her the 2011 CNN Hero of the Year award, bringing honor and recognition to the Philippines, given her Filipino ancestry," it said. "Lim is also bringing succor to the lives of countless women through her prenatal and childbirth clinics in the cities of Baguio and Quezon."

Lim, born of a Filipino-Chinese mother and an American father, said she felt honored by the commendation.

Since 2003, she and her team have aided thousands of poor women undergoing a healthy birthing experience in Indonesia. She founded birthing clinics in both sides of the island of Bali, following her foundation Yayasan Bumi Sehat (Healthy Mother Earth Foundation), providing free prenatal care, labor and birth support, postpartum care, breastfeeding education, and general health services.

Lim lived in Baguio for a time, learning the benefits of natural medicine and healing practices from her maternal grandmother. After her younger sister and her sister's baby died from pregnancy complications, she became a professional midwife and moved to Bali with her husband William Hennessy.

"Lim's offer of excellent assistance to pregnant women from her home gave to a personal mission and commitment to give every poor woman the same chance of surviving childbirth by providing access to free and quality prenatal care and birthing services," the resolution said.



Comelec: We can't do it

By Jeremaia Aning

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday reiterated that it would be unable to comply with a request from the Executive and Legislative Department to conduct a new voter registration in the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"We have already said that we can't do it. There's little time. I don't know how they will come out with a law on it," Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. told reporters.

Brillantes also criticized a Senate resolution that calls on Comelec to suspend the ongoing registration of voters in other parts of the country while conducting a new registration in the ARMM.

"[Sen.] we're going to sacrifice the entire country for ARMM?" he asked.

On Tuesday, 16 senators have signed a resolution directing the Comelec to purge the voters' list in the ARMM in a bid to avoid any form of electoral fraud there. In 2010, there were almost 1.8 million registered voters in the ARMM, of which 1.2 were able to cast their ballots.

Brillantes said conducting a new registration of voters in the region involved various procedures such as the bidding or purchase of new registration machines, recondi tioning of computer databases, and voter hearings before the election registration boards which are also in charge of petitions for disqualification, exclusion and transfer of registration.

"We will have a problem without any timetable. We can't finish it. But we will see if they have a solution to it," Brillantes said.

The Comelec-sit basis, citing lack of time, earlier refused President Aquino's call to conduct a new registration for ARMM, although the poll body said it would be possible to conduct the registration on Bagumbayan Day.

Brillantes said Congress should just pass now a bill requiring all voters to have biometrics in their registration to make sure there would be no more flying or ghost voters.

"That's the bill that they should pass, so that those registered without biometrics cannot vote."

Don't turn May feasts into beauty pageants, bishops urge

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PRESIDENT of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has urged the faithful not to turn this month's Flores de Mayo festivities into mere pageants of beautiful women and "struggle discouraged" the floral arch from participating in the processions.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma reminded their flock that the festivals of May were meant to offer signs of prayers and flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary and not beauty contests.

Palma said he was really praying that this year the Flock will be more enlightened about the true essence of the month-long celebration culminated by the Santacruzan, a solemn procession on the last day of the Flores de Mayo.

The procession, he explained, is held in honor of St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great who was said to have found the relics of Christ's cross in Calvary.

Christ's cross

As the legend goes, St. Helena discovered three crosses and instructed one of her rich servants to the deceased at the time. The servant was told to be miraculously cured upon touching one of the three crosses. This was then determined to be Christ's cross.

Since its introduction in the Philippines during the Spanish period, Filipinos continue to celebrate the Santacruzan, usually marked with a procession of embellished floats and usually dressed characters representing the various religious characters.

"We should all reflect on the celebration of Flores de Mayo, which is a time of offering flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary," said Palma over Church-run Radio Veritas yesterday.

"It is a beautiful tradition and I pray that the Santacruzan will not be reduced to a mere parade of pretty young women and the third sex. It must be an expression of prayers and faith and the gift of the cross," added the leader of the Church hierarchy.

While other Catholic bishops do not necessarily ban pairs from joining the Santacruzan, Palma yesterday cautioned that the flowers and arch blessed by the Catholic Church "strongly discourage them from participating in the procession."

"We discourage anything that would distract the people from their faith and devotion and from the respectful order of Mama Mary that we would like to honor," said Palma, adding that it should not become an excuse for gaining popularity.

Respect tradition

As much as possible they should not turn the event into a fashion show or treat it as a mere venue for merrymaking, he said.

"We should respect tradition ... it's a sign of faith and an event to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary," warned the senior prelate.

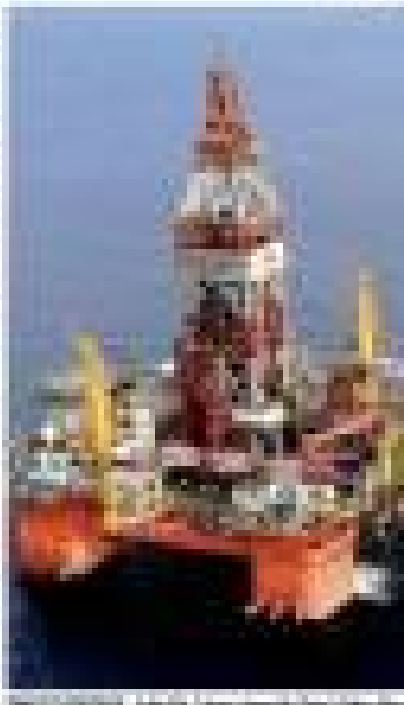
"I hope the people would refrain from staging parades for popularity's sake or to showcase lewd clothing especially among women and even the gays because it doesn't look good," added Palma.

In many provinces, the processions are often occasions for gays to parade in female or transgender finery.

"Let the Blessed Virgin Mary be the center of the celebration and I hope it will always be in the spirit of faith and gratitude," he added.

For his part, Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said reducing the holy celebration into a fashion show can be considered "blasphemy." He said that one way of making the event more meaningful among the faithful was by praying the rosary.

Defense last card: OJ on witness stand



'What will America do if China attacks Filipino forces?'

MVP Razon: Titans clash over oil deal with Sino firm

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Dead men walking?

WITH THE murder of state witness Alfredo Mendiola, a clear message was sent to the government: The car theft syndicate against which he testified is not one to pull its punches. The state of Mendiola's corpse and two others (each bound, gagged, and with a bullet wound in the head) and the speed with which he was neutralized (not long after he gave his guards to the Witness Protection Program the day) indicate that the reach and resources of the syndicate have not waned despite the arrest and incarceration of its leaders. The government should act swiftly to banish the impression that it is operating from a position of weakness.

EDITORIAL

In fact the government now has perceived to be in that precise position of weakness in the wake of the particularly brutal killings in January 2013 attributed to the car theft syndicate led by the brothers Raymund and Roger Dominguez. The killing within days of car dealer Vernon Evangelista in one case and Erwinton Lozano (and eyewitness Ernani Sesoal) in another, the botching of their bodies and theft of their vehicles, stirred public apprehension that authorities were powerless to ensure public safety. It even appeared that no headway could be made in the two cases had not two eyewitness lived and stirred the Dominguez brothers' responsible for those and other killings. Mendiola, who confessed to being a member of the syndicate and turned state witness, had apparently completed his direct testimony and cross-examination, meaning his death is one more to set back the prosecution of the car theft with homicide charges in Evangelista's case. But while it's an eminently logical and proactive move, there is unnerving chilling in Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo's warning that other witnesses should "take all the necessary precautions and seek police protection if necessary." It's an acknowledgement of the syndicate's continuing capability to inflict harm.

Police officials are yet loath to officially say that the car theft syndicate led by the Dominguez brothers is behind the murder of Mendiola and two other men seen as collateral damage. But both Robredo and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima have earlier stated that the syndicate was the most likely suspect—a conclusion that is not farfetched considering the grim body count accompanying its reported carjacking record. And as though to underscore the idea that authorities are not exactly dealing with a paper tiger, Asuncio Evangelista, the father of the murdered young man, has wondered aloud about Robredo's reference last year to a list of officials in the Philippine National Police and in the Land Transportation Office linked to car theft, and called on him to reveal it.

The involvement of law enforcers and other "public servants" in high crime is neither a secret nor radical idea in these parts. Syndicates engaged in car theft, drug dealing, kidnapping for ransom, even that hardy cover-up staple "hazing," are known to flourish and endure because of the patronage and protection of people who matter in the general scheme of things. The Dominguez brothers' syndicate purportedly operates in the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan and parts of Metro Manila; its leaders may have been decommissioned, so to speak, but the list on Mendiola proves that its "structures" are in fine fettle—and continue to enjoy protection. Mendiola himself, in his last days alive, was reported to have observed that the Dominguez syndicate's "protectors in uniform" were again in action. His movements appear to have been so efficiently monitored by his enemies that his second encounter beyond the confines of the Witness Protection Program proved to be his last. Who served as eyes and ears in that streamlined operation?

The murder of Mendiola not only caught the government with its pants down, again, but also brought to the fore the necessity of beefing up the programs established to protect witnesses and whistle-blowers. Are all of them dead men walking? Robredo and De Lima are faced with the task of overhauling and strengthening this key program that is critical to the resolution of many a case of long standing. It will not do to merely yield to a witness who chides as cumbersome and wins to evade his guards at every opportunity. As Mendiola's unfortunate end shows, it's not only the case that has to be saved, but the witness' very life as well.

Oaths

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AFTER PASSING the impeachment proceedings at the Senate for several weeks now, Filipinos will have become familiar with court room rituals and ceremonies. Many such ceremonies have to do with the oaths we take. "I swear him in," the presiding officer barks before a witness may begin to testify; whereupon, that person is prompted to repeat the administered: "I swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God." When a witness refuses to be sworn, conflicting emotions, a senator-judge may warn him then: "May I remind you that you are under oath." All these may suggest that oaths do make a difference—that is, a person is less likely to tell a lie under oath than if he had not been explicitly sworn. Is that so? Why?

I am inclined to think that nowadays oaths do not mean much anymore. We tend to treat them like mere utterances as part of a ritual, instead of carefully weighing every word they contain and the promises to which we explicitly bind ourselves. It is the meaning with the public does as much we fill up. We are likely to invest little time or attention in the accuracy of the information we give regardless of whether it is a sworn statement or not. A good example is the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), which has become the center of gravity of the impeachment case against Chief Justice Renato Corona. How many people are aware that the second fifth of the document is "sworn statement of Assets, and Liabilities and Net Worth." The person who is required by law to file it is supposed to swear to the truth of what he has furnished in information before a public officer.

Does an oath acquire its binding character from law, or does it derive its force from the fact that it asks God to witness a pledge of truthfulness? Courts have indeed come down to us from the sanctuaries of the Church and religion. In the United Kingdom as well as in the United States, hosts of states take their oaths of office by putting their right hands while saying their left hand on the Bible. It is in them that this passage from the Scriptures might often speak. "Their mouths speak vanities; their right hands are raised in lying oaths." (Psalm 144:8)

The political philosopher Giorgio Agamben argues that oaths are done religion and law. The ancients, he said, made sure the deities answer to something higher or unspoken. In his highly original book, "The sacrament of language: An archaeology of the oath," Agamben explains that oaths have their origin in man's experience of language. In every language, he says, there is a binding force that transforms the words we speak into something far more vital than the utterances to which they are cast. "Every oath swears on the same par excellence, that is, on the name of God, because the oath is the experience of language that treats all of language as a proper name. Pure existence—the existence of the name—is not the result of a recognition, nor of a legal act. Rather, it is something that cannot be signified but only sworn, that is, affirmed, as a name. The category of truth is the certainty of the name of God."

The decline of the oath in modern times can only correspond, Agamben continues, taking off from an insight by Paolo Prodi, to a "crisis in which the very being of man as a political animal is at stake." If I understand this intriguing thesis correctly, what it seems to be saying is that as politics sheds off its significance as a meaningful human activity, the commitment by which a person swears to an earlier pledge also loses its potency. Oaths are reduced to ritual incantations carrying no more because they no longer proceed from an intimate experience of language.

In this connection, we may well ask: What is the significance of requiring public officials like the justices of the Supreme Court to submit a sworn SALN if this document is supposed to be hidden from public view? The libel of such a requirement suggests that the document contains nothing but truthful and accurate information. On the whole, we have taken these statements at face value, giving them little thought: if anything, once in a while, they are dug up in search of damning evidence in cases filed against petty public officials. It is the first time the SALN has figured in an impeachment case.

Judging from their past statements, I get the impression that the defense team of Chief Justice Corona is prepared to concede that his SALNs from previous years have been marked by inaccuracies. The question they ask, however, is whether the filing of an inaccurate SALN constitutes an impeachable offense. Given the lack of seriousness with which our government employees have generally regarded the SALN, that is indeed an interesting point to raise.

But to anchor the defense on an argument like this would succeed only if we accept that all oaths in modern society have indeed become nothing more than empty utterances. That is what Agamben is saying, but he states that as a lament over the way in which language has lost its force as a transcendental truth. One might forgive Corona if he has come to the same conclusion. But he happens to be not a mere political observer, but the country's chief justice. He cannot say that our sworn statements have no meaning and still remain chief justice.

The public deserves to know which he presides as the highest official were almost entirely on the binding character of oaths. To diminish their importance would be to undermine the very foundation of truthfulness on which the law depends.

I understand Corona's lawyers have finally decided to let him testify. I would really like to hear him weigh every word of the oath he will take once he is sworn in as a witness.

public.lives@gmail.com

Independent

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DIEL ERIGMIO Angara should be kicked out of the impeachment court. So says the defense panel. The approved of multi-billion peso projects in his home province of Aurora, the defense said in a motion, confirms him to "participate in favor of the Liberal Party and Pres. Benigno C. Aquino."

Quite apart from that, Edcel Sagadraba ("Jimmy"), is a member of the prosecution. Without doubt, the grounds for his inhibition are clear and unequivocal. The more pertinent question is his sue in any aspect of their powerful page shows him in a position of potential conflict. What seems to be missed in all this is that Jimmy is the son and direct descendant of Senator Jaime Angara."

Well, I've never been a great admirer of Angara's. He, politically comes back to us inherited in his legal one—emblematized by principle. His legislators have been as ruthless as Juan Ponce Enrile's and Miriam Santiago's, unmitigated by an Estrella Elamparo's or Leticia Ramos-Shahani's, or his lack in being at the right place at the right time.

It is manifest of interest that he serves as senator-judge while his son sits as a member of the prosecution? But of course it is. It would be so in any country but especially in very where family is everything. Blood is thicker than water so they say, and the Filipino more than most, more here. The objectivity you need to rule fairly on a case, or even to keep an open mind on it, is fatally compromised when his is involved.

Should Angara be promptly removed as senator-judge? Of course he should be.

Only if Bongbong should be promptly removed as chief justice of the Supreme Court, and for far graver conflicts of interest.

That's the mind-boggling thing about it, that the people defending Corona should charge other people with the same thing he is supposedly guilty of. Of course they probably figure they can always lead off that charge against him in the impeachment court by legal trickery, or by rising collegiality. Which proposes that if most justices voted the way he did, then he could not possibly labor from conflict of interest. What's in fact all it proves is that those justices have as well from the same conflict of interest he does.

While at that, you want to inhibit senator-judges from conflict of interest, why not inhibit lawyers who were the heads of prosecution lawyers but quarrels at the feet of Ilocos Marcos-style democracy? In fact, why not inhibit all of them for being politicians, some of whom are running in next year's elections and need to look after their political future? An impeachment court naturally suffers from the infirmity of its members having partisan interests. Even so during the Estrada trial, it is so during the Corona trial.

Arguably Angara's conflict of interest is also more in your face. But Corona's is the more so. He was chief legal counsel throughout Arroyo's watch, a unique-appointed watch at that, which makes him a partisan to some extent. Add to that the monumental impurity of his being elevated to as chief justice in the midnight hour. Whether or not he ruled in Arroyo's favor in that subsequent capacity—and you can't have better proof than his unanimous, carried-out by an inferior 7(8), that Arroyo be allowed to flee the country—he should have inhibited himself or been forcibly restrained by a contingent, if not indeed forced to resign by his peers in the judiciary or his betters outside of it, for exactly the same reasons defense wants Angara to do so.

The impeachment court may act as though that doesn't matter, but not so the court of public opinion. Which in this country is the real court, impeachment or not. It is the only court that is not partisan, that is not compromised, that is not a hotbed of conflicts of interest.

Pues, Corona says the reason P-Noy wants him out is that he wants a new chief justice that he can hold by the neck. Midas Marquez echoes his thought, saying the President is being understood and presumptuous in looking for Corona's replacement. "There's no vacancy in the Supreme Court... Perhaps we can practice some degree of humility."

That's the even more mind-boggling thing about it, that Corona himself should accuse others of the very thing he is even guiltier of. Frankly I don't know why he does this. I suppose it's deliberate. He probably subscribes to Marcos' concept of "the big lie": Marcos believed to call his enemies corrupt and power-mad. There's only one problem. Say the "big lie" to walk, or to have a chance at it, you've got to have complete control of media. You've got to be able to turn them into one huge propaganda machine. Marcos had and did. Corona doesn't and can't.

Can anyone be more laid by the neck than Corona? That he chooses to willfully be another one just himself? For his whole family, exposing his children to ridicule and scorn for the sake of the second most corrupt tyrant in postwar Philippines, either he's got to be the most principled man on earth or he has a collar around his neck that's choking the life out of him. The public is at least not of no doubt what it is.

But of course there's a vacancy in the Supreme Court, just as there was a vacancy in the Office of the President over the last decade. That post has been vacant since Corona stepped into it in the evil hour. Forget branding, email only a mundane of misfortune. Can any thing be more presumptuous and arrogant than pressing before the world while clinging to a fake title handed out by a fake president? Can anything be more thumbose than posturing as an honorably independent while being deeper in debt to a tyrant than a pious or sent to his funeral bed?

Behold a Chief Justice that is unbeholden and independent. Unbeholden by principle and independent of decency.

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Psst... US isn't with Unclos

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

ITS HIGH embroad—even comical—for the Aquino administration to be begging the United States for arms to defend our boundaries with West China, which it declared is based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), the latest one aren't with the convention.

The US—together with Israel and Turkey—is among 34 nations that have not ratified Unclos; they therefore officially do not recognize it. State Secretary Hillary Clinton in 2009 said the US then and would "unclos" it—when? Three years later, it hasn't even scheduled votes on it.

The US rejection of Unclos—ratified by 162 nations including China and Russia—is for ostensibly American foreign policy's basic guideline: "Might is right." The US is the only military global superpower, so it sees no need for having that of Russia and China contained. Why would the US allow these to be military weaklings tell what to do globally? were elevated cannot be willing to cast to ensure so?

Two Unclos provisions illustrate this point. Article 20: "In the territorial sea, submarines and other underwater vehicles are required to navigate on the surface and to show their flag." Would American nuclear submarines, which routinely operate in the waters of our archipelago, ever want that? Article 58: "The high seas shall be reserved for peaceful purposes." But international waters make up the bulk of US warships, from which it projects its military power globally.

Unclos provisions that limit the US' freedom of navigation in the international seas are the reason why Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta have been hanging their hats on the still-complaining to the world that China is refusing to have the dispute settled in the International Tribunal for Unclos.

But here is the response: **The Philippines isn't alone with China in its territorial disputes over large islands in the South China Sea.** Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam have also claimed islands in the Spratlys, and Taiwan occupies the largest one.

The Manila government ratified Unclos in 1984. But it has yet (under the treaty in full, declaring what it claims as "archipelagic Unclos on continental shelves."

On issues of sovereignty: The country formally filed an eight-paragraph document when it ratified Unclos, which declared that nothing in the treaty would apply to its non-territorial claims. Its Paragraph 4 reads: "Such signing shall not in any manner impair or prejudice the sovereignty of the Philippines over any territory over which it exercises sovereign authority, such as the Kalayaan islands, and the waters appurtenant thereto."

In other words, we're declared that we do not recognize Unclos when it comes to our territorial disputes, such as that on Scarborough. The very body that can review that restriction is the Philippine Senate.

And what were China's qualifications when it ratified Unclos in 1996?

On issues of sovereignty: China is in its own declaration said that it "reaffirms its sovereignty over all its archipelagos and islands as listed in article 2 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the territorial sea and the contiguous zone" which was promulgated on 25 February 1992." That law declared as part of China what it called the Dongsha Islands, which included Scarborough Shoal (Panatag to us).

In other words, both the Philippines and China—in fact most of the countries which ratified Unclos—don't recognize the treaty when it comes to determining territorial disputes.

Indeed, that is how China's Chief Unclos official does? Of the 15 cases brought to it since 1997, nearly all were about maritime disputes, i.e., commercial rights to mine off with a benign government. The only case that remotely dealt with sovereignty was the one Russia's Permanent and Bangladesh's maritime boundaries of Cheribu of Bengal between the two countries.

First, Mr. Aquino makes the colossal blunder of sending a warship against Chinese fishermen, then I get her into court right, after her Hole Week to treat she called me several times to say that she was sure then over about our interview and that would be the last I'd be publicly complained. The drama with me, the lawyer of suppose from Israel arranges she flew from egging her to come forward and say what she knows.

"I am offering myself as a witness and," she told me, "he [refers] for the country." She always seems pleased to be called "witness" by the lawyer of her US-based sister also and the media interviewer that followed me indeed God manoeuvred.

God-manoeuvred was it the fact that Sister Flor refused quietly lived out her religious vocation for more than 60 years would suddenly be in the public eye, creating this specific story, for reasons only God of FMM can know? Or is it the fact that the FMM are using the divine workings in the congregation in this part of the world and, of course, as Sister Flor's speaking matters-powers—at this time.

The FMM is one of the many Franciscan congregations inspired by the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi who emphasized radical poverty and humility. The FMM was founded in 1877 in Italy by a French woman, Mother Mary of the Passion (now a "Blessed" and, it is hoped, on her way to canonization) who envisioned an international network of contemplative active missionaries. Today, almost 9,000 FMM sisters are serving in 75 countries in the world.

Serving in the Philippines are 181 FMM sisters, mostly Filipinos. 34 Filipino FMMs are stationed in 10 countries. The FMMs serve in many fronts and missions: in parishes, schools, hospitals, schools, catechetical and spiritual formation, urban poor, rural poor, farmers, workers, children of persons with leprosy.

Their universal prayer begins with, "Lord, look at each and closely..." To that, Sister Flor has only one line added [illegible].

Send feedback to rtiglao@gmail.com or rtiglao@yahoo.com

Childhood summers

EVERY YEAR for the past 30 years I could remember, long after torrential rains had punished the ground and potholes sprung like mushrooms in our improved roads, and before the endless season of "Tik Heavens" during the Holy Week had concluded, I was ever-ready for my spirit would smell the familiar smell of the drying earth. We would know then that summer had arrived.

When I was much younger, summer meant catching dragonflies.

YOUNG BLOOD

Michael F. Tan

grasshoppers, and damselflies in the rice paddies, our small feet leaving marks in the muddy earth. That was the tradition of swallowing summer. My two younger brothers and I joined the neighboring kids and created our own miniature world.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the teen to twenty-something set. Write to...Ed.

Sometimes, when waking up to find that our parents had gone off, we'd knock on the doors of families known to round up the gang. Soon after, 10 or so like adrenaline rush of climbing mango trees and bus eating a bundle tooting the kangag fruit. We'd dangle precariously from the tree branches and leave everything in chance: Will our breakfast climb down on our pieces?

Eventually we would move on to tackle the guava, santol, and our neighbor's coconut and apple trees. This ended the raffle for the dragonflies and grasshoppers for me.

We spent most summers learning a new hobby, instrument, or sport. But as always, after those fleeting long months of fun, we'd be back to the reality of home and routine: cold jobs, jobs on cars, tuksuran, at habi-habi!

Hot and humid days were spent following a broken path down to the river, while hours days were reserved for bike-flying. I was twelve years old making my first kite, and my first working kite: knowing potentialities in between despondent moments. I had to improve on it until I hit the jackpot: an improved paraball game using hollowed-out bamboo cylinders we called "saltot" via the midwifery gun. The ammunition came in the form of crepe newspaper pellets which, when viewed rapidly, resembled distant "ulap" (in our vocabulary, which is mostly dominated by Ilocano). The pellets, like bullets, were nearly impossible to see in flight, and probably every unnoticeable sensation of each game... The list goes on!

Summers also meant (and we would see it any time of the day) What we saw was the world for a month or more: our basic core

Misconceptions about Chinoys

I NOTICE in reaction to two items published in the May 1 issue of the business, whose common tenet seems to be connected, as they both involved on the role of "Chinese-Filipinos" in the current tense and hostile environment between the Philippines and China.

The first item was the column of Solita Monsod, "Chinoys, Indios Bravo" in which she was perplexed by attacks on Chinese in the past even our own relatives, as Chinese. Of course, Ang Say, like any other citizen, is free to express her opinions on the issues, but I do not see the need to demand that her words be heard "now."

In the letter "Voice of Chinese-Filipinos needed to settle disputes with China," Anita Sotto wrote: "We have wanted our Chinese compatriots with love and support, and they have been part of our culture, our lives—our sisters" If "Chinese compatriots" refers to what Sotto calls the "Sangley or "Filipinos with Chinese lineage," there is seems a case that the term is an oxymoron. How can the Chinese be "compatriots" and still be "Chinese" in the same entity? It would be like calling the Zobel de Ayalas "Spanish compatriots," or the people of Cainta "Indian compatriots." Either (1) the Chinese are "still Chinese" and are therefore not compatriots of the Filipinos, or (2) they are compatriots, in which case their having statements [in many cases, just one out of several ancestors] from China should be of no significance.

Sotto called on the Chinese residing in the Philippines and the "Sangleys to join "us" and "end their mother country to resolve the issue." It is hard to see how China is necessarily the "mother country" of Chinese, especially those who only have a distant Chinese forebear. If a person has one great-grandparents who hailed from China...out of eight great-grandparents—why should his or her "mother country" mean anything to him/her?

Sotto also wrote that "Filipinos and Chinese have lived in harmony for centuries." Is she sure? Was there no discrimination against Chinese in the past? Was there no discrimination against Chinese in the past? Was there no discrimination against Chinese in the past

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Mangyan folk want to be counted, too

By Madonna Virola
Inquirer Reg. Occidental Mindoro

AIDA CARCULAN guessed her assumed eight thumb on a certificate of live birth inside the municipal gymnasium at the boundary of Barangays Rafael and Poblacion in Abra de Ilog town in Occidental Mindoro.

"My son told me that I'm now 80 years old," she said.

Carculan, a Mangyan of the mide'ha kuno, did not learn to read or write. She was one of some 500 Mangyan people who came to register on March 20 in response to the "Count Every Child" campaign of the nongovernment Plan International.

She, even the boys (duets), along with their children, were pressed to be counted that day and to receive documents from the civil registry office.

Carculan's daughter Thyja, who managed to reach Grade 2, said she finally has a document to show that she was born on March 25, 1961.

According to the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO), Abra de Ilog, whose name speaks of its "numerous rivers," has a population of around 30,000 although records of the National Statistics Office showed 28,728 as of 2010. Around 11,000 or 38 percent of them are Iraya which also means "women living" in the tribe's language. the MPDO said.

Formerly a small settlement founded by religious missionaries in the early part of the 17th century, Abra de Ilog is a second-class municipality (annual income: P85 million-P95 million) with a land area of 72,000 hectares. On the western side of the town is the popular tourist destination Puerto Galera.

Mayor Eric Constantino described the event as a "big deal" for the Mangyan people, saying that most of them—from birth to death—did not have any evidence as to their existence.

Plan Philippines, the counterpart of Plan International sponsored the activity as part of the worldwide celebration of the group's 75th year. Plan aims to promote children's rights and lift them out of poverty.

Constantino said it was difficult for those who came to the town proper for the mass registration. "The folks from their upland villages to the poblacion usually takes two days. They usually won't go after for that," he said.

Mostly Hahon, communications officer of Plan Philippines, said birth registration would help protect children against various forms of abuses such as child marriage, underage military services and child labor.

Lallany Nicerio, technical officer of the child protection unit of Plan Occidental Mindoro, said the Mangyan people were "among the most vulnerable" of those groups being installed for such attendance.

She cited the case of a 15-year-old Mangyan girl of the mide'ha Binaratan (which means "rice" in "greatest") from Magsaysay town in the southernmost tip of the province, who did not have a birth certificate.

Three years ago, she said, the girl went employed by a relative to work as a maid in Manila. "The employers was harsh and left her with no food. Although countless study word's Binky," she said.

The girl, who did not know how to read or write, was also deprived of food and denied her salary, Hontes said. A relative, who was also working in a maid, was able to escape.

Last year, the abused Mangyan's maid, who works as a community worker with Plan, found a way to bring her home when she went to Manila to take the board exam for teachers.

The girl has since rejoined her family and given livelihood assistance by the NGO through a program that would prevent her from being "trafficked" again to Manila or other big cities.

Plan Philippines' birth registrations activity on March 20 attracted around 2,000 Mangyan people, including those coming from areas outside Abra de Ilog, Hahon said.

So far, 8,000 Mangyan Iraya people here had their birth registered, according to Christita de Rosario, municipal civil registrar, who cited records from the Office of Mangyan Affairs of the local government.

For those living in far-flung communities, the office will conduct two mobile registration every Feb. 27 when it observes Civil Registration Month.

De Rosario welcomed Plan's assistance because it would be difficult for the municipality to do the birth registration alone because its fund is limited.

Nicerio said, "there is no exact data to identify the total number of unregistered Mangyans." The indigenous people usually transfer their dwellings to other sites.

To determine their year of birth, the interviews with the Mangyan registrants is crucial, De Rosario said. "Like if a Mangyan says she or he was born when the volcano erupted, referring to Pinatubo, the year is 1991, or when a Mangyan says he was born during the time of the Japanese, that is in the 1940s," she said.

"Sometimes, you have to ask, 'Ilang taon mo?' (how many rice cropping seasons?) in asking for their age," De Rosario said. According to her, rests is a major crop among the Iraya Mangyan, who because of poverty, are "not used to celebrating their birthday."

Nicerio said the camp season from June to September are "hungry months" because it would be difficult to farm, the main source of livelihood for a Mangyan couple who usually has five to six children.

A child is fortunate to reach the age of 15 because viruses, measles, diarrhea, pneumonia, tuberculosis, malaria and other preventable diseases are common occurrences, she said.

Still, "the (birth) certificate is very useful, especially in the attainment of the government's poverty alleviation program, Democratic Paulynog Pinpoc Program," said Rodolfo Bantilan, 74, a tribal leader.

AN IRAYA Mangyan elderly woman registers her birth at a desk at the civil registry office of Abra de Ilog town in Occidental Mindoro during the 75th anniversary of Plan International.
—PHOTOS BY

Most of the Mangyan people do not have any evidence as to their existence —from birth to death

ULI Ten Principles of Sustainable Development for Metro Manila's Urban Core+

15 May 2012 (Monday), 12:00nn at the Forbes Park Pavilion, Pandan Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

PROGRAMME

12:00nn – 1:00pm MP Lunch at Forbes Park Pavilion

1:00pm Welcome Message — Manuel A. Black, Chairman, Philippine Real Estate Association

1:05pm Introduction of Guests — Carlos G. Dolor, Project Leader, Philippine Representative, ULI South Asia

1:10pm Message from ULI — Global Vision, Local Impact: The ULI Experience in the Philippines — Victor Vitug, Chairman, ULI Philippines Council

Urban Regeneration and Development — Manuel V. Rosas, Chairman, Philippine Retailers Association; Managing Director, Ayala Land, Inc.

1:25pm – 2:00pm The Principles of Sustainable Development for Metro Manila — Dr. Joseph Gyourko, Project Director, Wharton Real Estate Center, University of Pennsylvania; Martin Gleave, Senior Manager, ULI Center for Sustainable Development

2:00pm – 2:05pm Welcoming Remarks — Ramon del Rosario, Jr., Chairman, Philippine Business for Social Progress

2:05pm – 2:10pm Closing Remarks — Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Chairman, Ayala Corporation

2:10pm – 2:15pm Q & A

2:15pm – 2:30pm Break-out Groups

Urban Land Institute

FPA

Top UPLB grad rises from poverty

By Ronaldo G. Ponte and Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THERE is nothing wrong with cooking. There is also nothing wrong with being a farmer."

Imelrod C. Mijares, a tricycle driver's daughter and a food technology graduate from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, listed her audience ghost to what she had to say.

Mijares, 20, was the lone commencement leader among the 3,744 graduates during the UPLB's 40th graduation rites held on April 28 in the D. L. Umali Freedom Park. She obtained a general weighted average of 1.39.

Harvey V. Baldovino, who completed a master of science in computer degree, under in quantitative economics, led his postgraduate peers with a general weighted average of flat 1.0, according to the UPLB university publication.

Among those who attended were newly elected UPLB Chancellor Fernando Santos Ortiz, UP Diliman President Alfredo Pascual and Forum UPLB Chancellor Dr. Lara Fely Feliciano.

In a speech she delivered in Filipino, Mijares said that contrary to public perception that her course is all about cooking, it was really about the more complex aspects of food processing.

She had wanted to become a doctor, but her family's poverty made her choose food technology. She is hoping nonetheless after her mother had told her that she was a "doctor of food."

Her father, Teody, drives a tricycle while her mother, Evelyn, sold garments and accessories.

Being poor, Mijares said, should not be a hindrance to fulfilling one's dreams. "Be rational and be careful in facing the challenges in life, even during combinations that are not favorable. Bring poor and being young."

"I am not ashamed of being a graduate of the College of Agriculture. There is nothing wrong with being called an agriculturist," she said.

"If nobody plows the field and grow plants, could we still eat rice later? Agriculture is not a joke. This is not as simple as planting rice, spraying chemicals or milking cows."

The country needs "scholars of the people" who will develop agriculture and ensure the growth of a rich economy," she said.

Mijares finished her high school education at the private Calauang Institute on a school scholarship. But the next year, it was clear that her parents could no longer support her through college.

In 2005, she obtained a scholarship grant at UPLB. She has already, she worked as a student assistant in one of the university's offices. During summer, she would take tutorial jobs in Calauang to raise extra money.

Mijares said her family was "living just fine" until about two years ago when her father almost lost a leg in an accident in Batangas and had to stop working for several months. "He was driving a motorcycle when he was hit by another tricycle," she said.

Her mother and her older sister Cecil had to borrow money, while she took a loan from a student association. "I saw how my family worked together. I saw how strong my mother was in that she never gave up," she said.

In her graduation speech, Mijares thanked her parents by inspiring her to follow achievements.

Mijares said she would most likely work for a private firm. She has plans to pursue studies in medicine or in foods at UPLB.

HIGHEST

PEOPLE

Across the NATION

TOURIST SITE A boat wreck is kept untouched in the white-sand beach of Cuyo, Palawan, to serve as a tourist attraction and a reminder of how puny these types of fishing vessels are.

Logging roads tear into Luzon forests

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—The government's ill-equipped, understaffed forest protectors are suffering the consequences of their cat-and-mouse game with illegal loggers in the mountain separating Mangatarem town in Pangasinan and Sta. Cruz town in Zambales.

On April 30, a team of foresters and Army soldiers led by Raymundo Goyo, community environment and natural resources officer, drove up three mountains in the dead of night to pursue suspected illegal loggers.

"It was late afternoon that day when we received a text message. According to our informant, there were 27 people with chainsaws in the group and a bulldozer," Goyo said.

"But fortunately or unfortunately, we did not find the group after four hours of searching," he said.

Goyo discovered the following day that the loggers had the motor and equipment to open a new road into the forest, right under their noses.

Building their own roads has become the tactic taken by illegal loggers to evade a military checkpoint in Barangay Mambog in Mangatarem, where a 19.5-kilometer stretch of the 24-km Mangatarem-Sta. Cruz road is located, Goyo said.

The loggers' new roads branch out into three tributary roads, including an old logging road that illegal operations repaired. All the small roads connect to a main road atop the mountains.

"I think they wanted to penetrate a supposed area clear so mains untouched in that part of the mountain [within the Pangasinan territory]," Goyo said.

According to the website of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Forest Management Bureau, the virgin forest cover in Mangatarem, Pangasinan and Zambales is almost 21,328 hectares. About 25 percent (5,286 ha) is in Mangatarem, while 16,000 ha lies within Sta. Cruz.

Goyo said the illegal loggers' cargo consistently about 40 per cent of the virgin forest in Mangatarem, which survived the onslaught of illegal logging since 2009.

Massive illegal logging took place in the Mangatarem forest when a team of environment officials from Central Luzon and the Bicol region inspected the area in March.

Samuel Belubel, DENR Ilocos director, said the team discovered several new roads that lead deep into the forest.

Lucbania Co, Pangasinan provincial environment and natural resources officer, said trees were cut there in 2009 when the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) began building the Mangatarem-Sta. Cruz Road.

"We are inclined to believe that the road was constructed for illegal loggers to have access in the forest. What's the logic in hallowing the middle of the mountains where there is a very thick dipterocarp (hardwood) vegetation? So, the intention was roads to cut trees there," Co said.

DPWH earlier denied it constructed illegal loggers when it built the road.

Town of the illegal cutting of trees has enraged Gov. Amado Espino Jr., who directed police to crack down on the illegal loggers.

In Lanao del Norte, soldiers on Monday seized 320 pieces of logs in Barangay Bato in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town, Lt. Col. Ferdinand Sarabia, head of the Army's 103th Infantry Battalion, described the seizure as the biggest haul by his men this year.

A campaign against illegal logging in the forested areas of Lanao del Norte was evolved following the December floods that killed hundreds of people in Iligan City.

Most of the victims were crushed by logs unleashed by floodwaters from the hilltop lands of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Razalan said DENR estimated the value of the seized logs at more than P700,000. Recently, soldiers also seized more than 5,000 board feet of logs in the watershed of Sibuod town.

The seized logs were stored at the 103th IB headquarters in Initao town pending a DENR decision on how these would be disposed of. With a report from Rachel Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao

SOLDIERS become warriors for the environment, seizing illegal logs in areas in Lanao del Norte.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ SURIGAO DEL SUR

Grenade kills 4

FOUR persons, including three minors, died while two others were wounded in a grenade explosion in Lingig, Surigao del Sur, police said on Tuesday.

Supt. Martin Gamboa, spokesperson of Eastern police, said the explosion in Barangay Podpodan happened when the victims, who were playing near a war-era fuel pool base on Sunday, found a grenade and played with it.

The dead were identified as Michael Ambuyo, 17; Jonnito Mooning, 19; Nathan Bernoj, 15; and Bibi Mae Bastonig, 12.

Two other children—Julie Jay Dela, 13, and Camille Dela, 11—were injured and taken to hospital.

The three boys died instantly while Ailyn Mae died at Lingig Community Hospital, said Gamboa. Nestor L. Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BATANGAS CITY

Woman shot dead

A WOMAN on her way to a court hearing on a case of illegal drug possession was shot dead yesterday, according to police.

Supt. Nicolas Torre III, city police chief, said Zenaida Ilar is was waiting for a ride past 9 a.m. when she was shot by two gunmen who fled on a motorcycle. Marvin Dela Cruz, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ QUEZON

Unpaid wage fatal

A VILLAGE councilor in Sagay, Quezon, was dead on the spot and another man was injured on Tuesday when a worker collecting unpaid salary went on a gun rampage.

Chief Insp. William Angeway Jr., Tagkawayan police chief, said Jose Dar Diego, a Barangay Bantilan councilor and boreman at an irrigation project in Barangay Pandak, was confronted by Ray Gerez, a worker, over unpaid wages worth a few hundred pesos.

Gerez drew a handgun at the height of a heated argument with Dar Diego and shot the councilor several times.

A stray bullet hit a worker, Ex-bilio Capalla, in the shoulder. Gerez fled and is now subject of a police manhunt. Jodin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ PAMPANGA

Korean nabbed

POLICE arrested a Korean tourist during an entrapment operation meant for suspected drug dealers in Clar village in Mabalacat on May 7.

Sam Jinsi, 47, was caught with a sachet containing shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) which he allegedly bought from a drug pusher, identified as Jerome Dizon, according to Supt. Rodney Baloyo III, Mabalacat police chief.

Assistant Prosecutor Fernando Calma de Guzman recommended a P200,000 bail for Sam, who faces a minimum prison term of 12 years if found guilty of drug possession. Joe Rudy Inquirer Central Luzon

Coffee shop in Batanes shows honesty can be good business

By Yolanda Sarada
Inquirer Northern Luzon

IVANA, Batanes—Honesty has been operating a rustic coffee shop here for 17 years now.

When customers enter the Honesty Coffee Shop, they will never encounter any person manning the place. They help themselves to a cup of coffee or a bottle of soda, or can munch on biscuits, fried bananas and sweet potatoes that have been prepared and laid out for them at the counter.

After a can is used, they are expected to pay for the service by dropping coin or coins into a wooden "payment box" at the counter and sprinkle down what they bought on a notebook.

Elena Gabilo, 77, a retired schoolteacher who owns the shop, says the system has worked well for residents of this coastal village as well as visitors.

It was on a cold morning in 1995 when then newly retired Gabilo observed fishermen boarding boats in a pier just a few meters from her house.

"It was hard [to see] these men not a place for them to get drinking water, much less coffee, and my heart went out to them, especially the young children, for a moment I put a thermos bottle and some coffee and sugar for anyone to drink. I thought maybe they would leave me money but in the afternoon when I returned there was no money at all," she recalls.

"I told myself that was okay because I at least helped men," she adds.

She kept leaving the bottle of coffee and food for a month. One day she discovered a few coins tucked in a box, apparently payment for her service.

It encouraged Gabilo to add biscuits and candies in the counter, and even a kilo of two more pots and a kettle as Batanes is cool even this May.

The store has evolved into The Honesty Coffee Shop, which also displays souvenir items for visitors.

"I don't know if the customers drop the right amount. I don't want to know if some people are cheating. But as far as I know, 98 percent of the customers pay the right amount," Gabilo says.

She says most of her regular customers tried a similar venture in Manila, but they failed.

Conspicuous enough for customers to see is a sign on a wall that says: "Get what you need. Please pay (but) whatever you get. If you have no change, break at the door. If no one answers, come as you get more than the price. May your tribe increase. Remember, Honesty is the best policy."

ELENA GABILO, a retired teacher, is the founder of Batanes' The Honesty Coffee Shop.

Court sides with gov't in case vs John Hay water firm

BAGUIO CITY—A court here has dismissed a petition for preliminary injunction filed by a Camp John Hay water company against the government acting director of the former American rest and recreation base tasked for ordering it to stop operations.

The John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC) had imposed a March 26 cease order on the John Hay Spring Inc. (JNSI), claiming it failed to present the operating permits for the year, but the water firm had challenged JHMC's authority in the courts.

Jenaro Molina, JHMI president, also filed a complaint at the Office of the Ombudsman against JHMC and an official of the Department of Health Food and Drug Administration for abuse of authority when the government firm and the agency shut down its water-refilling facility.

JHMC is a subsidiary of the John Hay developer, Camp John Hay Development Corp., which is locked in a debt feud with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

JHMC is a subsidiary of the Bases Group of Companies owned by BCDA.

"At the outset, let this court be categorical: it does not have the slightest doubt that the John Hay Management Corp. is vested with regulatory powers to carry out its duties and obligations," Judge Antonio Reyes of the Baguio Regional Trial Court said in a resolution issued on April 30.

Reyes said JHMC's decision to close JNSI's water facility "cannot be considered despotic, whimsical and arbitrary" for the simple reason that JNSI failed to renew its operational permit which is a condening requirement for its operations."

Vincent Cabreros, Inquirer Northern Luzon

18 stay-in workers killed in Butuan fire

From page A1

on, said she was roused from sleep as the fire spread rapidly in the third floor office where they slept.

Vice Mayor Lawrence Fortuno, acting chair of the city disaster risk reduction management council, said based on the account of the surviving employees, the steel door of the establishment was locked from the outside, making it difficult for anyone to escape if chaos occurred.

"Sinomento kasi is that the main door was locked so it was difficult for them to escape," he said.

Factory owners reportedly lock up the premises to foil any plans of any of its workers from taking off with the merchandise.

Fortuno said the investigation was set to unplug to determine the responsibility of the store's owners, who faced charges.

"It could be negligence resulting in multiple homicide against the store owners," Fortuno said.

Amid the intense anxiety and pulls for help, Tulo managed to dash out with her evil-inspires. They sustained minor burns on their arms.

"We wanted to rescue others from sleep, but the fire was already too strong," a stunned Tulo said.

At least 20 employees, mostly women, were sleeping at the store when the fire broke out, Obando said.

Many stores in the Philippines allow their employees to sleep over, especially in those who live far from home.

Relatives and friends, most of them in shock and tears, gathered in search of loved ones in front of the building, where police stood with body bags of the victims' remains.

Obando said investigators were trying to determine what sparked the fire and if the owners violated fire regulations.

Memory of fire evil

The building was a disaster before burning, records of past fire incidents there with several stores, including the Store Jeans and Shirts, where most of the victims died.

Tulo said she used images from her memory of the location of the fire exit as she led screechers Grace Casoy and Verly Calcetas out of the burning building.

"The smoke was so thick that it was impossible to visually locate the exit. I used my memory to recall the way to, word it," Tulo said from her hospital bed.

Only three survivors

Tulo, Casoy and Calcetas were the only survivors out of the 21 stay-in workers of city goods and apparel store Store Jeans and Shirts on Montilla Boulevard here.

Fire Insp. Alvish Cesares, Butuan fire marshal, said 17 bodies, mostly of women, were found by firefighters and volunteers.

"We recovered 17 bodies and they were burned beyond recognition," Cesares said.

The body of an 18th victim had not been found, Cesares said.

He said the cause of the fire, which raged for more than five hours, had not been established yet, but five investigators had ruled out arson.

Workers asleep

Tulo, a cashier at Store, said she and her co-workers had been awakened after she was awakened by the screams from. She said she was stunned when she realized the building was on fire.

Tulo said hard as she tried, only Casoy and Calcetas managed to get up, and they decided to find their way out of the burning building.

"The fire was quick to spread and set fleeting heavy smoke was all over the place," Tulo said.

Dash for life

With Casoy and Calcetas in tow, Tulo said she ran as fast as she could to reach the exit, which was about 30 meters away from where they slept.

"Upon reaching the fire exit, we jumped off and crouched to safety," she said.

Tulo said that from where they dropped, they could hear their co-workers, who were now roused from sleep, crying for help, but they could no longer do anything.

"Unfortunately, they got trapped," she said. With a report from AP

TOO MANY DIED HERE Body bags containing the bodies of workers killed in the fire that hit the three-story building in Butuan City

WHAT WENT BEFORE: Other fires trapping stay-in workers

IN RECENT years, fires have ripped through factories and commercial buildings in the Philippines, claiming the lives of stay-in workers.

In October 2004, eight workers of Popping's Sweets Plant in San Fernando, Pampanga, were killed when a fire hit the establishment. The victims were trapped on the fourth floor, where there was no fire exit and the windows were padlocked.

In December 2005, at least 24 people, including shoppers, vendors and store employees, were killed when a fire burned down the Ozamiz store in Misamis Occ. Twenty-two other people were injured in the fire, which was caused by a firecracker explosion.

In March 2007, seven people were killed when fire hit Eastern Enterprises, a textile factory in Cogon Pardo, Cebu City. The dead were a 70-year-old woman, her daughter and the grandchildren. Police suspected arson.

In May 2007, four stay-in workers of LGB garments factory in Cebu City perished in a fire that hit the factory's dormitory. Two other people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. The building did not have fire exits but the windows were grilled, leaving the workers no way to escape.

In December 2007, two workers of a rice cake factory in Tondo, Manila, were killed in a fire that destroyed at least three other structures in the area. The fire, which was linked to a gas explosion, damaged at least P500,000 in property.

In January 2009, a chemical explosion at the T and B Enterprise factory in Bocaue, Bulacan, caused a fire that killed two workers.

In June 2009, three contractual and stay-in employees of 500 Promo and Display Inc. Senior Quezon, Caloocan City died in a fire that originated from a room containing highly combustible materials.

On May 6, 2012, a stay-in delivery boy of Jones's Sash Factory in Santa Cruz, Manila, perished in a fire that hit the establishment. The fire destroyed P1 million in property. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

Raymart, Claudine file countercharges vs Mon Tulfo

By Miko Morales

SHOW biz couple Raymart Santiago and Claudine Barretto yesterday slapped libel cases in Quezon City prosecutor's office against broadcaster Mon Tulfo, citing the columnist's charges of physical injuries and threat of abuse in the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office over the lawsuit of the Hilton Angeles International Airport 3 on Sunday.

Santiago cited more of the talking as the verb kept her silence, whereas Barretto's camp denied their children Sabina and Santino, who he said would undergo psychiatric evaluation to determine whether they suffered emotionally as a result of the attack.

In the couple's complaint, they said Tulfo's version of the events that led to the one-sided brawl, a video of which went viral.

Contrary to Tulfo's claim that only Barretto had complained at Cebu Pacific's passenger assistance desk, the couple said "we (the Santiagos) lodged our complaint."

Raymart's story

While talking with the ground staff, they "noticed a man taking photos of Claudine and my daughter Sabina," Santiago said.

Santiago approached the man and asked what he was doing.

"In response, the man unreasonably ranted and without any provocation, threw several punches and kicked Raymart," the complaint said. "Raymart instinctively fought back and moved to defend himself, but was immediately restrained and pacified by several airport security personnel."

After both men were separated, Barretto went to the man to ask him "why he hit Raymart." The man pushed and kicked by Tulfo, "the latter (Mon) (sic) (starting) Claudine to turn against the camera" and uttered abusive and lewd words.

Raymart came to the rescue of his wife, whom he described as his "true (the morning) end of this man's senseless violence." A woman Eduardo Benjamin Arbano also rushed to Raymart's side.

They said they only came to know that the man was Tulfo when they saw each other again at the airport per lines at check-in.

The couple said their children were apparently suffered from psychological and emotional trauma, with both of them not wanting to be left by their parents "fearing they will not see them again (and) have a bad mood and will again hurt us."

Consequently, for the purpose of apology served by Irwin Tulfo on radio, Santiago said that he did not personally hear about it and that from what he learned, the apology was "directed to the public."

"I could have let this slip away, the punches and the kicks to me. I could forget it," he said.

"But hitting my wife," Santiago said, pausing briefly to gather his composure as he appeared to be overcome with emotion. "That I will never let pass."

'First part' of brawl

Santiago appealed to potential witnesses at the airport who might have recorded the "first part" of the brawl, which was their account, to help him and the court video on YouTube and other video-sharing websites was merely "the second part."

For his part, Arbano said the couple were still mulling whether to sue Tulfo's younger brother—Erwin, Raffy and Ben. But when Santiago was asked about it, he answered in the affirmative.

The actor said his family's routine had been changed after the threats against him and his wife. He said he had sought earlier assistance from the Philippine National Police.

"Before this, I went out by myself. I jogged by myself," Santiago said. "But now, I have to leave the house with companions."

Lyka said that some of his neighbors had told his family that they had noticed vans roaming around their house in Quezon City.

Asked to elaborate on his claim, Santiago looked at his lawyer before saying he would reveal more details "in due time."

3 younger Tulfos suspended by TV5; Mon takes over TV show

From page A1

of the Hilton Angeles International Airport last Sunday.

In a phone interview, TV5 chairman Mr. Presidio Vibal, Sr. (sic) said the "Tulfo brothers have been suspended as of 1 p.m., Wednesday."

Probable cause

The chief executives of Nenuil, TV5's news and public affairs programs, would meet this afternoon with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

MTRCB has found probable cause to charge the three Tulfo brothers and TV5 with violating a law for airing indecent scenes and utterances that encouraged the commission of violence or crime.

The board scheduled the case for hearing this morning.

In an episode of "Tl: Kapatid, Sagot Kita" on Monday night, Erwin, Raffy and Ben said they would exact revenge on Santiago and Barretto for gauging up on their eldest brother Ramon and behind contusions and a black eye.

Raffy told Santiago: "Kung yung kaya ko, ano co ano kaya, kaka-yung pasa mo nasa bungan ga mo na. (How) (sic) bugbo mo co, ano sa'yo ang sa'yo (sic) (sic) (sic)

Suarez tumbles as Barriga advances

SPORTS

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2 archers find mark in Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LEYAPATH, Pangasinan—Bianca Bonan-Chua-Gonzaco of the National Capital Region and Raul Bristian Mark of Central Visayas pulled off record-breaking wins in archery yesterday even as NCR sustained its excellence in swimming halfway through the 2012 Palarong Pambansa here.

Gonzaco, who topped five gold medals at last year's Philippine National Games, won four events in the girls' high school category, including the 90-meter where she scored 302 points to surpass the previous high of 300 by Silverly Bacaltos of Region 9 last year.

The 14-year-old Boholana from International Adtocal Manila, who has competed and trained extensively in the United States, also prevailed in the 50-meter, 30m and Single Pits at the Capitol Hotel here.

Mark, also 14, and a sophomore from St. Louis College in Dumaguete, smashed Gwen Palaez' records on route to winning as many gold medals.

He scored a blistering 318-30 meter test with 20-8 points to beat last year's score of 300 by Julius Sebastian Torres then improved by ten the old mark in the 30 meters with 300 points. His third mark came in the 40 meters with 304, very past the 303 set by the same Visayan last year in Dagupan City.

"I'm very happy because this is my first Palaro in the high school division," said Mark from Bagacay Dumaguete, who also dabbles in mixed martial arts and will also see action in the 50m and 60m in the next few days.

Julia Corduro also grabbed the limelight by accounting for one of four NCR event golds yesterday at the Dagupan pool after setting two records last Tuesday.

Her new marks came in the high school girls' 200-meter butterfly stroke with a time of 2 minutes 18.10 seconds and in the 200m medley relay where she spearheaded her team to victory in 2:08.09, erasing the 2008 mark of 2:09.30 by another NCR squad.

Her latest gold came in the high school girls' 200-meter butterfly stroke with a time of 2 minutes 18.10 seconds and in the 200m medley relay where she spearheaded her team to victory in 2:08.09, erasing the 2008 mark of 2:09.30 by another NCR squad.

Her latest gold came in the high school girls' 200 individual medley where she beat young swimmer Catherine Bendal. Kristine Bacolcoco (girls' 15- 200m breaststroke), Alberto Batungbacal (boys' 50-200m back) and Rain Gaston (girls' elementary 50m breast) also earned in golden performances for NCR.

Jose Mari Arella of Calabarzon set a new mark in boys' elementary 200 IM with a time of 2:31.80, shattering the 2005 record (2:26.75) of Ruiyo Borja.

At the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center, Stefina Yuan of NCR clinched her second gold by topping the high-school girls' triple jump. Jessi before play was halted for the midday recess. Yuan, who won the long jump Tuesday, leaped to 11.20 meters for the win.

NCR also cashed up five golds in the 200 meters through Emmanuel Guinevic (elementary boys), Rocks Bradlee (HS boys) and Maureen Heidy Arbes. joint HS girls).

WV picked up their most gold medals from athletics with Joslyn Lacosta and Joel Dermapor becoming triple-gold performances in high school girls' and elementary girls' 400m hurdles, respectively. Silyn Tandadi, who settled for the girls' triple jump silver, finally struck gold in the long jump, while Joyce Bernanis ruled the elementary girls' 200m.

Calabarzon's John Bry Moreno won

KARL Kristian Mari: Right on target

GARY ARELLANO

hurdles in the boys' high school 3,000m steeplechase with a time of 9:53.8, beating Mimaropa's Jose Mari Jovelo (9:58.8).

Calabarzon and Western Visayas grabbed two golds each at the start of semi-competition site at the MSGC. Region 4-A's Mark Andrew Ortega topped the boys' elementary steer individual single-weapon, and Jessa Cabanes. Ang winning the girls' elementary side.

Crystal Al Barrosino topped the high school girls' epee individual single-weapon, while John Lloyd Salazar and Jasper Jake Dalisa dominated the epee team double-elemental weapon for WV.

Mariden Caballes Jr. of Region 7 held away in the 4th boys' epee individual single-weapon.

Parks lifts Bulldogs past Stags

By Cassidy P. Tupas

SORRY Ray Parks sustained for solid play to National U's overcome San Sebastian, 78-75, last night to extend its endeavors must-own as St. Benilde and University of the Philippines finally banged into the wins column of the Filoil Flying V Hanes Preseason Cup.

Parks, last season's UAAP Most Valuable Player, finished with 21 points, missing fourers with Philip Jamillosan and Gabriel Lalimgo on a torrid fourth-quarter burst that sent the Bulldogs to their sixth straight victory.

It was the second straight loss for the Stags, who are still groping for form since returning from a training camp in the United States.

Gabriel Alforva finished with 20 points for the Stags, who looked to be in control until Jamillosan and Lalimgo caught fire from beyond the arc in the final quarter.

Earlier, St. Benilde used a strong start to blast Arellano, 87-47, in a game marred by a brawl involving fights. The GP scrapped the period (Help, 81-47, in the tournament presented by Scottish Pills and Supervolcanol.

Behind Mark Romero and Cedo Lastimosa, the Blazers cruised to a 23-7 lead, stretched it to 26-midway in the second period, before erasing the rest of the way. St. Benilde is unpicked in 1-2 for fifth spot in group-fo.

But the game ended on an ugly note as 16 players, including nine from Arellano, were ejected because of a bench-clearing incident at the 7:40 mark of the fourth period.

Box Score

SAN BEDA RIZAL (78) — Parks 21, Alforque 20, Jamillosan 11, Lalimgo 10, Lastimosa 8, Mangao 3, Alforque 2, Balagtas 0, Alforque 0, Mendoza 0, Ignacio 0, Angeles 0, Jose 0

SAN SEBASTIAN (75) — Alforque 20, Alforque 14, Mangao 12, Lastimosa 10, Mendoza 8, Balagtas 6, Ignacio 5, Alforque 3, Alforque 3, Mendoza 0, Jose 0

Quarters: 26-10, 26-20, 26-20, 26-25

Barbosa gains share of lead in Asian chess

FILIPINO Grandmaster Oliver Barbosa beat Indonesian Pide Master Nicolas Rajie to share the lead in the fourth round of the 13th Asian Continental Individual Chess Championships on Wednesday in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Barbosa hiked his total to 3.5 points, the same output of Ding Liren of China and Jaenudin Megaranto of Indonesia, who downed Indians Gill Sethuraman, S P and Dronavalli Hari Chandra Jun, respectively.

Tied with them are Chinese GM Ju Yangqi and IM Lou Qingtao who drew their games.

GM John Paul Gomez rebounded by beating GM Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, climbing to 3.0 points, good for a tie for 8th to 11th place.

GM Mark Paragua notched his 2nd win over Chinese FM Wei Yi and improved to 2.5 points.

The country's No. 1 player, GM Wesley So, however, continued to struggle, notching his four straight draw for 2.0 points in the company of GM Darwin Laylo, who also drew with Indian IM Karuppaiyan Srinath.

IM Jan Emmanuel Garcia was stuck at 1.5 points after losing to Indian GM Abhijeet Gupta. Asia's First GM Eugene Torre drew with Vietnamese FM Nguyen Ngoc Trung to tie-breaks in this qualifier for next year's World Chess Cup.

Rey Lustre

Canaleta seeks All-Star double

By Maong R. Castillo

LAGAO—JEC Canaleta of Barangay Gredza has a very rare chance for a sweep in the PBA 40-and-Over Weekend's side events when he takes part in the Slam Dunk and Three-Point shootout competitions.

Canaleta is highly favored in his pet Slam Dunk event, where he will be gunning to win for the fifth time, and is given an even chance in the Three-Point contest against the league's best outside shots.

The last time Canaleta won the Slam Dunk was in 2003 in Puerto Princesa in Palawan. He first three victories came consecutively from 2000.

"I am very excited," Canaleta said prior to departing for the host of Boac.

CANALETA

Hosts capital. "This year would be very difficult because of a number of younger guns in the roster."

The most prominent dunker among the young guns that Canaleta talked about was Talk N' Text's Japeth Aguilar, the high-flying 6-foot-10 center who

performed in the art of the slam while with Western Kentucky University in the United States.

Gabe Norwood of Ginebra, Al Vital of B-Meg and Elmer Espiritu of ALI are the others in the company list talented Slam Dunk field.

Canaleta is also entered in the Three-Point Shootout, but will run for one of the favorites with Air21's two-time MVP James Yap of B-Meg, Gary David of Powerade and two-time defending champion Mark Macapagal entered.

Rosco runner Ren-Ren Ritualo is also in the mix and the dashboyne women in the All-Chain of Stars at Slam.

Ternate, 31 (points) to one practice," Zamed, a prime candidate for the seven-foot-10-ft and to Filipino. Thirty points is the prelim score for the event.

Coca-Cola PBA Young Stars up

THE PROVINCIAL phase of the 2012 Coca-Cola PBA Young Stars, a tournament for boys aged 13 to 16 years old, fired off last Saturday with a dozen teams from South-west and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao participating.

At up to May 12, the event has 13 teams each from Pangasinan, Pampanga and Bohol for Northern Luzon; Laguna, Cavite and Batangas for Southern Luzon; Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo for Visayas; and Davao, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos for Mindanao.

"This is a nationwide tournament and will be a great collaboration among the PBA, Coca-Philippines and the various LGUs in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," said PBA commissioner Chito Salud.

Viloria ready against Romero Sunday

By Ray Lustre

BOXER Viloria is so pumped up with his grudge fight against Mexicans Omar Niño Romero this Sunday that the Filipino Americano is dare-ready made the weight and said he's ready to go yesterday.

"I am weight right now and make the weight," Viloria said during a press conference at Island Asiatik 1 at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas.

"I've trained harder than before and it seems slow Sunday super fly-weight," said Viloria, who, however, clarified that he isn't looking past Romero, who beat him by unanimous decision in their first encounter before collapsing a comeback bid in their rematch bout, which was later changed to no-decision after traces of illegal substances were found in Romero's urine.

Now, five years later, Viloria is aiming to exact revenge and keep the WBO flyweight title he snatched from highly touted Colonel Ongpauco last year.

Though flowers, who's still four pounds over the 112-lb weight limit, acknowledged that Viloria has evolved into a better fighter, the former world champion said he's made adjustments in his first major test on Sunday night.

Fighting in the main supporting bout are former world champions Rodel Mayol and Julio Cesar Miranda, both former victims of Romero and Viloria, respectively.

The bout, produced by Solar Sports, will be aired by GMA 7.

VILORIA (left) and Romero

Freego Cup: UST star fires 9 triples

SHARPSHOOTER Princess Montemayor helped to wine triples to power University of Santo Tomas past erstwhile unbeaten Dalang Kai Sibak College, 73-63, while defending champion Hope Christian High School gained a share of the lead with a win over Adamson in the PCBL-Freego Cup Tuesday at the Rudy Boy-Abacan Gym in Quezon City.

Montemayor collect a tournament-best 40 points, spiked by four straight triples, to earn Freego Best Player of the Game honors and enable the Tiger Cubs to snap a two-game skid for a 2-1 record in the event also sponsored by Asaan.

Hope Christian, which finished runner-up to Dalang Kai Sibak College in the Dong Xiao Championship this past June Adamson, 66-47, for a 4-1 record.

Majesa shocked Ateneo, 76-72, through the inspired performances of Roniel Villanueva (22 points) and Aaron Serrano (13).

The set-to was Majesa's second in six starts in the event also hosted by Hapee Toothpaste, Praline Fruit Shake, Nikon Home Appliances, Cob Commercial, Jumbo Plastic Linoleum, Serv-U and Isuzu Superior Cebu).

UST limited co-Fernando Nguilong to defense-whipping UAAP'ist Nathaniel Imperial University 75-64.

Also emerging as Freego Best Player of the Game were HI-Jammer of Majesa, Clint Rodriguez of Hope Christian, and Ngadong.

COLWELL

Colwell stuns PH ace riders

AUSTRALIAN Richard Colwell defeated each against-to-be up-stepped top Filipino riders to clinch the Superbikes crown recently in the second leg of the 2012 Philippine Philippine Superbikes Championships at the Clark International Speedway.

Colwell eclipsed more experienced riders in the 11-man field to capture both the Super and Intermediate events of the event sanctioned by the Subic Racing Association (SRRA) and supported by Bridgestone.

He clocked 20 minutes and 41.284 seconds in the 10-lap race, finishing 0.378 of a second ahead of Batangas kickoff winner Ramil Rosales who placed runner-up in both classes.

Anthony Roman, the reigning Underbone King, checked to stand overall while Jules Dalmer and Ernie Agno secured up fourth and fifth, respectively.

DEMARRE'S JaVale McGee is called for goaltending as he stops Los Angeles' Ruben Brown.

Pacers advance; Hawks rebound

INDIANAPOLIS—Danny Granger scored 35 points to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Orlando Magic, 103-87, on Tuesday and clinch their first-round NBA Eastern Conference playoff series, 4-1.

It was Indiana's first series win in the playoffs since 2005 and its first home-court clincher since the first round of the 2000 playoffs. The Pacers will play Miami or New York in the second round.

Darren Collison scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and George Hill added 15 points for the Pacers, who rallied by nine at the end of the third quarter but outscored the Magic 30-16 in the final 12 minutes.

Jason Nelson led Orlando with 27 points and rebounds. It's 11 3-pointers. Glen Davis, a thorn in Indiana's side throughout the series, scored 15 but made just 6-of-17 shots. The Magic made just 5 of 16 shots in the fourth quarter.

Collison made a layup and hit a 3-pointer to give the Pacers a 78-73 lead with 9:22 to play. After Nelson drained another 3, Collison came back with a layup, then teammate Barbosa's mind-and-layup pushed Indiana's lead to 87-80 with 6:48 to play and forced an Orlando timeout. A few minutes later, Indiana's Paul George stole an inbounds pass and found Granger under the hoop for a layup and a 91-80 lead. The Pacers dominated from there.

In Atlanta, the Hawks edged the Boston Celtics, 87-86 in Game 5, avoiding elimination and ending the series deficit to 3-2.

Boston had a chance to clinch the series when Rajon Rondo stole Josh Smith's inbounds pass with 1.0 seconds remaining and raced down the court, looking for the winner. But he got tangled up along the sideline and Smith finished away a desperation pass, the ball rolling away as time ran out.

Atlanta's Al Horford had 19 points in his first start since January while Smith overcame pain from a sore knee to tally 13 points and 16 rebounds. Jeff Teague had 16 points, while Joe Johnson and Marvin Williams had 15 apiece, giving Atlanta a double-figure scoring from all five of its starters in a sweltering lineup.

Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett led the Celtics with 16 points apiece. Rondo had 13 points and 13 assists, and the last of his five assists almost gave Boston a chance to end the series early and get some much-needed rest.

Boston headed to Atlanta intent on swapping things up, but Horford clearly wanted to play a little longer after missing a couch-time tie-ball late breaks and dived on the court for loose balls.

Look who's guiding Benhur's Olympic quest

THE VISITING expert, a taekhwan, was both effective and spellbinding he inevitably got asked a couple of pointed questions.

1) Is the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Ttap)'s source of his prize

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

were to the country?

2) Is he getting any support or encouragement to his wife, Lisa, outside to develop talented poor kids from either the Philippine Sports Commission or the Philippine Olympic Committee?

Simone L. Bloom, listed as a six-time Philippine national table tennis champion, was direct to the point.

"No and nothing," he said in the middle of a busy training and dress session.

* * *

This was on Tuesday afternoon in a crowded hall at the fourth floor of the refurbished Mandaluyong Elementary School (MES) off the busy G. Aglipay St. in the city proper.

A mingling crowd of kids, parents, media people and city hall executives were all hooked onto one table where a small key of five was doing a display of ping-pong basics.

The tyke in dark blue t-shirt and playing shorts was doing top-spinning, dabbing, playing in a delicious show of solid moves never seen among older practitioners, like the cranky gang that plays ping-pong every morning in front of the Philippine Independent Church across the elementary school.

"There are all products of a visiting six-time national champion," said city leader Nanidy Charriet, who invited the inquirer to take a peek at the happy proceedings.

* * *

Soon enough, Mayor Benhur Abalos materialized inside the hall, coming in 30 minutes after his 3 p.m. appointment.

"He saw everything so a ton of Manilaboying who dared come home to establish a table tennis academy right in our city," Abalos explained.

Abalos also ticked off the early achievements of the Philippine Table Tennis Academy (PTTA)—launched in August last year—that included a six-year-old grandson topping a town-age national champion, another small and obscure trainee going all the way to capture the silver medal among older and seasoned rivals.

"There were unbelievable achievements scored in less than seven months of the academy's endeavors."

There are currently a total of 18 young players under the PTTA.

Abalos said the academy will be expanded to involve all other city schools and barangays.

* * *

Anyway, when Abalos asked the count of the kids' love for table tennis, Bloom, 33, went crowd, explained he has no doubt whatsoever that the PTTA would soon be drawing out many native competitors who should easily shine internationally.

Pactolerin gains Japan Senior Tour card

By Mayong B. Carrillo

ROBERT Pactolerin, the former Philippine Open and Masters champion, has qualified to play full time in the lucrative Japan Senior PGA Tour.

Also a multiple leg winner in the local ICTSI Tour, the 51-year-old Pactolerin has confidently declared in the game with the ultimate goal of eventually becoming just the second Filipino after Frankie Minoza to cruise it to the US Champions Tour.

Pactolerin is not the only Filipino currently campaigning in Japan with Juvic Pagunsan also earning a full card in the Japan Golf Tour after topping the Asian Tour's Order of Merit run last year.

Minoza, Pactolerin's pair in many Philippine squads in the past, also has a regular tour card in Japan.

"That's the ultimate goal," Pactolerin, who will make Japan his base until at least the end of the year, told the Inquirer in an overseas call to Filipinos of his goal to try his luck in the Champions Tour qualifying later this year.

"I tried sneaking going overseas earlier in my career. I just feel that this is the time."

Pactolerin, who is now being handled by Japanese pro Yuzo Ozawa, finished eighth out of 300 players who tried out for 20 slots in the Japan Senior qualifying tour held in Fukushima recently.

He tallied his under-par three days to easily make the grade and is now prepping up for numerous events, including at least six overseas stints and one major tournament.

PACTOLERIN

SPORTSWATCH

Countang eyes second win as GT goes to Clark

THE FOUR TEY'S Great Race car drivers gear up for another intense battle as they head for Clark on Sunday for the second leg of the 2012 Petrophilia Philippine GT Championship Series at the Clark International Speedway.

Mohd Abdul Andy Countang hopes to extend some and secure the early title lead in the title race of the same conference for the Indonesian Association Philippines and sponsored by Yokohama, Toyo Racing 88 and Racing Road Wheels (RR).

Best of A Round of Golf

A ROUND of Golf takes fans down memory lane as hosts Dominic Ow and Gideon Hadiprayitno share their top three favorite for moments in the Asian Tour today on Solar Sports at Global Destiny (Ch. 31), Sky Cable Digital (Ch. 75) and Cablelink (Ch. 31).

Meanwhile, AMT-host Ben Leno marks his birthday through the annual ABL Golf Cup at the Manila Southwood Golf and Country Club while the Golf Guru segment interviews the latest Callaway Asia Global 3 in Episode 11 of Season 11 of the golf and lifestyle TV show presented by AVI 51 and produced by UBS Media.

Shakey's V-League: Tigresses, Lady Stags in vital clash today

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
2 p.m.—FEU vs Perpetual
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo
6 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UST

By Carlo P. Tapao

SHAKEY'S V-League rivals University of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian clash for top spot in Group Preliminary action as both teams seek a quarterfinal berth in Season 9 Open Conference at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Holding 3-0 records, the Tigresses, who won a record six titles, and the Lady Stags meet in the 6 p.m. match, after the Lady Salonga tangle with the winless Ateneo Lady Knights.

Anticipating for solo second in Group A, Pat Gaston Jr. and Perpetual square off in the first game at 2 p.m.

A victory against the Lady Knights will ensure the Lady Falcons of pangasi into the quarterfinal round.

Letran has lost all of its three matches so far, but the Lady Saloons aren't expected to let up when they meet Jimella Ndoc.

Iglupas gave for a finals berth against fourth seed Nicole Arnaiz, who routed Alexis Sangmpam, 6-0, 6-0 in the Group 1 tournament presented by First Gen Corporation and sponsored by Smart Communications.

Miguel, on the other hand, outlasted second seed Hermann Maligaya, 6-1, 4-1 to barge into the quarterfinal round of the 18-minor division headed by top seed defending champion Michael Bala, third seed Diego Dayot, No. 4 Kate Aspi, No. 5 Alyssa Valenzuela and Mike Vinluan.

Iglupas, Miguel shock First Gen rivals

ELEVEN Iglupas and Rod Philip Miguel came away with big victories over top-seeded rivals to advance to their respective divisions in the fifth Pere Gen Juniorphil Meter Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday.

Iglupas, 11, showed up Rafa Villanueva in the girls' 14-and-under quarterfinals with a solid baseline game en route to a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

She banged into the Final Four with top seed Colleen Mateo, who triumphed Gelise Zamora, 6-0, 6-1 to set up a duel with third seed Frances Santiago, who scored a walkover win over Jinella Ndoc.

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Medina-Delegencia tops Hermes 10-ball

DR. ROBIN Ventura Medina and his partner Jonathan Uy-Delegencia buried the pair of George Banola-Ong and Francis "Bilas" Garcia-Estanta, 7-6, to rule the double-team portion of the Hermes 10-Ball Cup last Saturday at the Hermes Sports Bar, Hollywood Square Building in Quezon City.

Medina and Delegencia pocketed the top prize of P100,000 in the event supported by Tandem Corp., Mahogal Life Oil, Association of Golf, Karaoke and Disco Owners and B-League Corp.

Ong and Zubiaga settled for the runner-up's purse of P40,000.

Last month, Danny Bolisay won the 2012 Hermes 10-ball Cup and also received P100,000.

He trounced Arroyo Int. Bunch Jr., 7-4, in the semifinal round and then subdued Medina, 7-3, in the finals of the event.

DR. MEDINA and partner Delegencia.

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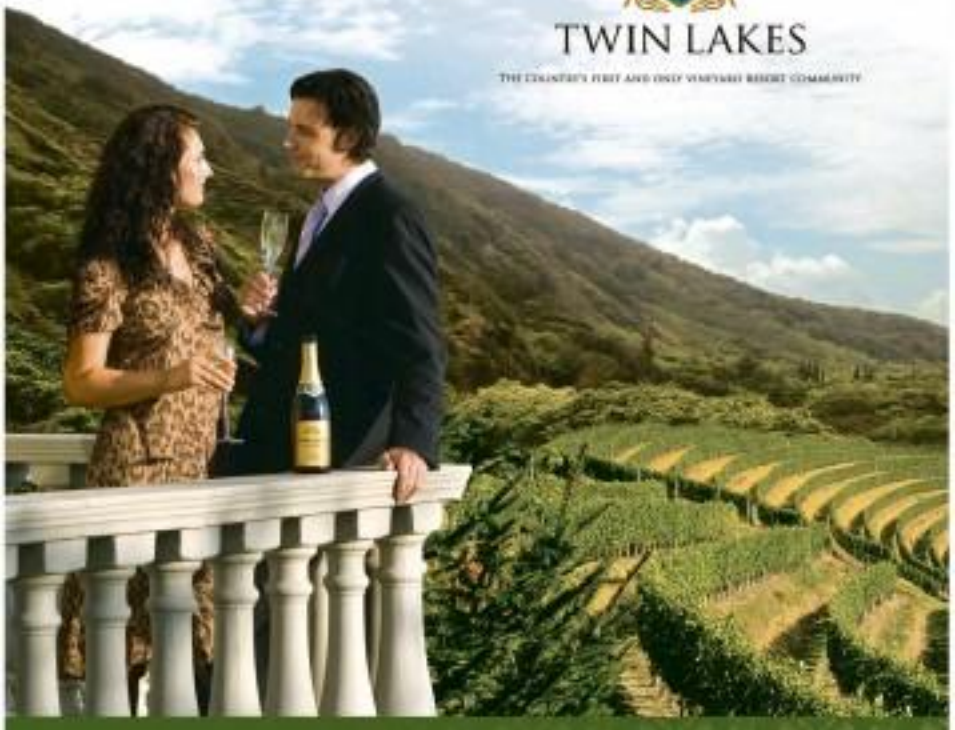

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

A TOTAL of 210 Filipinos contracted HIV in 24 years—an increase we see as less HIV-positive in the first quarter of the year. In March alone, 82 cases of HIV in the same age bracket were recorded by the Department of Health.
Zehaida Grandale, Inquirer Research

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2 QC dads suspended over 'ghost employees'

Graft raps haunt Councilors Paulate, Calalay

By Leila B. Salaverria

QUEZON City Councilors Roderick Paulate and Francisco Calalay Jr. were ordered suspended for six months without pay after graft investigators uncovered a paper trail of allegedly fictitious job orders that put almost 60 "ghost employees" on City Hall's payroll.

The Field Investigation Office (FIO) of the Office of the Ombudsman issued the order so it could unravel complaints for graft and malfeasance of public funds against Paulate and Calalay.

In a statement on Wednesday, the anti-graft body said the FIO had also filed administrative cases against the two officials for grave misconduct, serious dishonesty and falsification of official documents.

The complaints were elevated to the Office of the Ombudsman, which would conduct a preliminary investigation.

Also suspended and named in the complaints were the councilors' liaison officers, Theodelito Alvarez and Victoria Bermundo.

In a fact-finding probe which acted on a complaint from Jimmy Lee Dawis, the FIO found that some of the personnel identified in job orders from the offices of Paulate and Calalay were fictitious.

Dawis, whom the statements simply described as a "volunteer-blower" and "QC resident," was assisted by former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in the pursuing the complaint.

The FIO alleged that from July to November 2011, Paulate maintained 30 ghost employees, while Calalay had 29 ghost employees from January to November 2010.

These supposedly nonexistent employees were paid aggregate amounts P2.366 and P1.004 per month. The FIO said Paulate had released P1.11 million in salaries while Calalay had disbursed P2.275 million.

The disbursement of the salaries was done through the submission of bogus payment documents and payrolls, it added.

The alleged ghost employees had no birth records in the National Statistics Office, were not registered as voters in Quezon City, and had not secured clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation.

They were also not known to the barangays where they allegedly live, and, in some instances, their listed addresses were also found to be bogus, the FIO said.

Paulate, who is also a movie actor, is on his first term as councilor of Quezon City's 2nd District. He chairs the committee on cultural and mass media affairs.

Calalay, who is from the first district, is completing his term as councilor and chairs the committee on social services.

The two officials were undisposed and out of their respective offices, according to their staff, when the Inquirer tried to reach them for comment. Mirth Mallen, who worked for Paulate, said his office has yet to be formally informed of the suspension order. With a report from Acoy Cornejo

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DOJ asked to renew travel ban vs Barrameda suspect

By Kristine Felisse Marguesa

PLEADING that one of the primary suspects in the killing of her younger sister will slip out of the country, actress Rochelle Barrameda has called on the Department of Justice (DOJ) to renew travel ban against Ruby Rose Barrameda's estranged husband, Manuel Jimenez III.

Barrameda made the call after the Office of the President recently denied a petition for review filed by Jimenez III in 2010, reaffirming a 2010 DOJ resolution that ordered, among others, the filing of parricide charges against him.

Although Senior Justice Secretary Alberto Agra had issued a travel ban against Jimenez III, Barrameda said Kim had lapsed six months after it was released.

"Our worry is that he might leave [the country]. They own many ships, don't they?" she said.

Jimenez III is the nephew of fishing magnate Lope Jimenez who, along with Jimenez III's father, Manuel Jimenez Jr., is one of those charged for the murder of Ruby Rose, whose body was found encased in concrete inside a drum that was fished out of the waters off Navotas in 2009.

Lope has denied any participation in the killing of Ruby Rose, claiming that he and Jimenez Jr. had been estranged for some time.

In the decision issued by the Office of the President on May 2, however, Lope was ordered included in the list of accused. His inclusion was an offshoot of the 2011 DOJ resolution, but was a reversal of former Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera's order that cleared him.

According to Barrameda, her apprehension was valid since government lawyers had told her that although the Office of the President had denied Jimenez III's petition, this did not mean that a summon of arrest would automatically be issued against him.

She said that she was told that for the case to move forward, a petition for substitution filed by Jimenez is against Makabalo Ruggia at Trial Court Judge Zaldy Guerrero should first be acted upon by the Court of Appeals.

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Judge: Panamanian freed on technicality

By Nathaniel R. Mclean

A MAKATI judge yesterday defended his decision to dismiss the rape charges filed against a Panamanian national holding a diplomatic passport despite an appeal filed by the alleged victim amid an impending Senate investigation.

Speaking in open court, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 57 Presiding Judge Romeo Gaudiano Jr. had several testy exchanges with the lawyers of the alleged rape victim as he explained that he had dismissed the information filed against Erick Barcelo Sibila, a technical officer of the Panama Maritime Authority, because of unresolved infirmity.

"When I looked into the information filed, it was only the assistant city prosecutor who signed it, contrary to the rules of court which says the city prosecutor should sign the information," Gaudiano said.

Aside from dismissing the case against Sibila, Gaudiano had also ordered his release after the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) certified that the Panamanian had diplomatic immunity.

However, the 39-year-old alleged rape victim, represented by her lawyer Dandiño Jimenez, filed a motion for reconsideration, saying that the case should not have been summarily dismissed. The court should have heard their arguments first why Sibila's diplomatic immunity was not applicable to this particular case, Jimenez said.

He added that Gaudiano did not say anything about a technicality in his order, noting that it was a common practice in Makati to have assistant prosecutors and investigating prosecutors sign documents filed in court in the absence of the city prosecutor.

Gaudiano, however, insisted that the documents must be signed by city prosecutors themselves as he ordered Jimenez to read the Rules of Court to verify his statement. In the meantime, he heard a number of other cases scheduled yesterday.

When the judge got back to the Sibila case, Jimenez insisted that the rules do not prohibit an assistant prosecutor from signing complaints and that, being a court of record, the judge should have mentioned this in his earlier order.

"The resolution was not served signed by the city prosecutor. It is in the rules," Gaudiano insisted, slightly raising his voice.

"Does this mean you will deny our motion [for reconsideration]?" Jimenez asked the judge who promptly denied this.

"I have given the defendants (Sibila's) five days to comment on it and you will also have the time to comment on their reply so let's wait for it," Gaudiano answered in a loud voice.

Neither the 24-year-old victim nor Sibila were present during the hearing.

Sought for comment after the hearing, Jimenez said the judge's stand on the issue.

"I was surprised when the judge insisted on the lovability of [his] opinion. The issue had some dichotomy which will, yes, be the judge," he told reporters outside the courtroom.

He also insisted that the court should base their arguments on why the case should still be tried despite the certification issued by the DFA about Sibila being accused his diplomatic immunity.

"The issue of immunity should be debated in court and the case should not [have been] summarily dismissed. The culprit should be asked to come up with an opinion on this," Jimenez said.

BEAUTY IN BALANCE
Members of the Grupo Cisne National Aerobatic Circus perform one of their bicycle stunts during a show at Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City. The 40-member troupe, which also performed for ceremonies for the 1964 Beijing Olympics, is in the country for a six-day tour

FPIC to CA: Pipe still safe to use

By Marlon Ramos

ALMOST two years after its 117-kilometer long pipeline was discovered to be the source of the oil that had been leaking into the basement of the 22-story Petron Tower condominium in Mabini City since July 2006, the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) yesterday reminded that the decades-old structure was still safe to use.

Executive Clerk, FPIC, head explained, said that oil pipelines were generally operable even on substrate period of time with proper maintenance and upgrade, if needed.

In a hearing on the petition for a "writ of kalikasan" filed by Petron Towers residents in the Court of Appeals, Clerk stressed that FPIC's oldest oil pipeline remained fit for use.

He said even the US Code of Federal Regulation did not specify any "acceptable age" for underground oil pipelines, adding that the FPIC had introduced "necessary safeguards" to ensure the pipe's "structural integrity."

In the petition for a writ of kalikasan which they filed in November 2010 in the Supreme Court, Petron Towers residents said that the oil leak in Barangay Bangkal had placed their lives in danger.

The petition was granted that same November and the high tribunal ordered the indefinite closure of the pipeline before it reinstituted the case to the appellate court.

Before the shutdown, the pipeline was used to transport fuel products from Batangas to the Pandacaned depot in Manila.

PNP holds Mall Security Summit: Open your bags, please

By DJ Yap

IF YOU are entering a shopping mall and security asks to check your bag, submit willingly. It's for your own safety.

Many people do not know this. They complain about the dirty guards' poking deep into their bags and even ask whether those guards know what they are looking for.

Shopping mall owners are aware of this and they ask their security personnel to observe the guards to be more polite and expert in checking shoppers' bags.

But some are carrying bombs are not the only threat to public safety at shopping malls today. There is a new threat: Robbers smashing targets at shopping malls. These criminals don't care who gets hurt or killed, that's why security at shopping malls needs to be tightened.

On Tuesday, police officials met with the heads of security of the country's largest shopping malls to discuss how to improve protection of public safety at their establishments.

The discussion was called to prevent repeats of during shopping mall robberies such as the attack at the Robinsons Galleria in March.

During the 1st Mall Security Summit at Camp Crame, police officials from the Civil Security Group and Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agency (Soisa) and representatives from SM Supermalls, Robinsons Malls and other large shopping complexes in Metro Manila discussed measures to counter the safety of shoppers.

Senior officials from the police agency that regulates and oversees the operations of private security companies.

About 150 mall security managers and security service executives participated in the day-long meeting.

In his keynote address, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo observed that going to shopping malls has become a pastime for Filipinos so that every day a large number of them are exposed to danger. "That's why we need to look at mall security," Robredo said.

He said that when violence erupts in a shopping mall here, it makes the headlines not only in the country but also in other countries, as foreign service missions in Manila watch the country for the safety of their nationals traveling to the Philippines.

Asked if new security measures would be needed to counter threats like armed criminals, Robredo said: "For me, the challenge there is to implement the guidelines to the letter."

He explained that the key to safety at shopping malls is not how the checking of bags at the entrance is done or the shoppers' submitting to security check, but the full enforcement of security rules.

On March 20, robbers attacked a money-changer shop at the Robinsons Galleria mall in Quezon City. They fired their guns and killed gunmen as they made their escape. One of the grenades exploded, killing one person and wounding several others.

But not all violent incidents at shopping malls involved robbers. In September last year, a 13-year old boy shot his 16-year-old friend before turning the gun on himself at an SM mall in Bicutan, Parañaque.

DESPITE double-parked effortlessness, Jong checks out a routine security bumping by the 15 security agency managers gathered at the PNP at Camp Crame on Tuesday

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS
Two young girls try to beat the monster heat by grabbing a chunk Filipino refreshment, fruit-flavored "ice sandwich." They get theirs for only P1 each on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Thank you for video, dear friend

THE ISRAEL at the Move Against International Report (Hala) Dennis Cunanan on Sunday, which became a sensation, happened to result in participants a few hours.

On the part of the couple, actors Raymart Santiago and Claudine Barretto, it was to prove to me that arrogance and cavalier attitude towards small people.

On my part, that I'm to forget the spring chicken that I used to be, a vulnerable fighter.

On the part of Cebu Pacific Airlines, that it respects records of fairness service to its passengers even if they pay budget fares.

On the part of Nasa manager, Mr. Ong, it was to point out their ineptitudes to the public.

Were things could have happened. It planned to stage in a such case, for example, and no dozed circuit television (CCTV) camera to catch the unattended luggage in a strategic part of the airport.

It was the Universe at work. That incident had to happen in order to prevent a bigger, more serious incident from taking place in the future.

* * *

I had no reason to pick a fight that fateful day, a Sunday, at that particular hour—it's 5pm, of course—as I was very hungry and my driver was waiting for me outside the terminal. I had a very light breakfast when I left Davao City at 10:30 a.m. aboard a Cebu Pacific flight.

If I were another guy, I wouldn't have taken notice of the arrogance of a matronly-looking woman with a pretty face towards a Cebu Pacific clerk behind the complaints counter when the was loudly berating

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I would have walked away if I were another guy, since I was not involved. Most Filipinos would not lift a finger to help another person in distress, either because they are not a relative or they would consider it a waste of time.

But I did what I did because I always root for the underdog. The Cebu Pacific counter girl was on the verge of tears as she was being shouted at by a plane passenger.

I wouldn't have slept that day if I didn't come to the aid of that distressed woman.

* * *

All my years as a mental arrogance and self-defense expert (I'd like to think I am 20 years in kickboxing, arnisyad nem. for 4 years in judo, 10 years in kickboxing, an equal number of years in aikido, the Filipino art of stickfighting) didn't prepare me for that fight on Sunday.

I blame myself for my excessive self-confidence bordering on arrogance.

I could have run away when I saw there were too many opponents.

But still I stood my ground since I knew I was right. I refused to hand over my cellular phone with a camera that one of them was trying to confiscate from me.

I paid dearly for that arrogance. A bruised ego.

* * *

If I were to be placed again in a similar situation, I would do what I did that Sunday.

But if I saw that I am faced with overwhelming odds, I would run like hell even if people would call me a coward.

* * *

Nasa General Manager Jon Angel Ilumin could not explain why there was no CCTV camera at the spot where the commotion happened. All he could say was "we are still awaiting on it."

Since which hasn't yet been working on the installation of CCTV cameras, Mr. GM?

Some ago, two passengers about to board their plane at Nasa has their belongings, among their a Nokia watch and a Sony camera, missing after a the equivalent of a million pesos—which were never recovered.

The two passengers sought my help in my program "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" on different occasions. In both instances, I accompanied the passengers to Nasa and we went to the spot where they lost their belongings. The areas were not covered by CCTV cameras.

* * *

I am forever indebted to the person who took the video of my being ganged upon and had it posted on YouTube.

Please show up so I can thank you profusely.

Without that video, my credibility as a columnist and defender of the oppressed would be in tatters since Claudine said I kicked her and Raymart claimed that I attacked the flight.

Thank you very much, my friend, wherever you are.

Hotline open on illegal school fees

PEERS before the start of the new school year, child welfare group Akap Bata has launched a hotline for complaints against illegal or questionable enrollment fees in public schools.

The group offered a number and an e-mail address.—(02) 9356001, parentsakapbata@yahoo.com.—to receive complaints, which would then be forwarded directly to Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

In Facebook page and a "text to account—09189_bata_patry —will also accept complaints under the group's "E-Monitor" project launched at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines on Wednesday.

Akap Bata reminded the public that the Department of Education currently has a "no-collection policy" for enrollment fees in public schools this coming school year.

"Rest assured that identity of our callers will remain confidential," said Arlene Brosas, Akap Bata national secretary general.

Akap Bata said Deped has mainstreamed its no-collection policy to various memoranda issued from 2008 to 2010.

"No fee shall be collected from school children enrolling in preschool up to Grade 6 during the enrollment period and at any time during the school year. For levels beyond Grade 6, no collection of any type should be undertaken during the enrollment period and the first month of classes," Brosas said, quoting the orders.

Contributions may be collected starting the second month of the school year, but only on a voluntary basis, she added.

"Any fee raised or hoped or done, violating school administrations and personnel of the 'no-collection policy' will be dealt accordingly with administrative charges," Brosas warned. Jayson T. Gawid

UN envoy Annan warns of civil war in Syria

DAMASCUS—Internationally envoy Kofi Annan has given a bleak assessment of the crisis in Syria, saying violence remains at "unacceptable levels" and warning that his peace plan is the country's last chance to avert a disastrous civil war.

Annan on Tuesday termed Syria on the brink and said the presence of UN observers has had a calming effect on the city, which has killed at least 9,000 people since March 2011.

"There is a profound concern that the country could otherwise descend into full civil war and the consequences of that are frightening," Annan told reporters in Geneva after briefing a closed-door session of the UN Security Council to show both its cohesiveness. The observation mission, he said, "is the only remaining chance to stabilize the country".

Syria has become one of the most helped bring down Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, in part out of fears that it could make the conflict worse. Syria is an important geopolitical linchpin with a web of allegiances to powerful forces, including Lebanon's Hezbollah and close ally Iran.

Annan said a civil war in Syria would flood outside its borders.

"It will not affect only Syria," he said. "It will have an impact on the whole region and that is why we should all be as concerned for the Syrians, for Syria, and be a region that for geographical reasons we should all be concerned about."

Annan has led diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to the crisis, promoting a plan that calls for a truce monitored by observers to lead the way to negotiations for a settlement. But his efforts have been worn down by the government's refusal to withdraw its heavy weapons from population centers as called for in the plan, and repeated claims by both sides that they are violating the truce.

On Tuesday, a car bomb exploded in Damascus, killing 13 people, activists said. Video posted online showed a huge plume of black smoke rising over the capital's skyline.

Annan said a civil war in Syria would flood outside its borders.

"We've been small in numbers, but even where we've been able to place two or three observers, they've had a calming effect," he said. "And I think that when they are fully deployed and moving on teams, establishing relations with the people, we will see much greater impact on the ground that they are there to do."

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ANNAN REUTERS

Libya starts first trial of Gadhafi supporters

ZAWIYAH—Libya began its first civilian trial of alleged supporters of Moammar Gadhafi's regime on Tuesday, officials said, as they were accused of planning to create instability by "terrorist acts" opposed to the truth.

Judge Anser al-Fathi did not read out a charge sheet but announced the trial, which is being held in the western town of Zawiyah, for a week at the request of defense lawyers.

Ali Ashaibi Mohammed, the head of the court, said 37 men had been arrested in Zawiyah, just west of the capital Tripoli.

"Today's case ... is about a group of former regime leaders ... They were planning to conduct terrorist acts and create instability in the country as well as carrying weapons," he said outside the courtroom.

"Some of them confessed that they took part in fighting [with] in some areas."

The men were behind bars in the courtroom, 100km east and those were the first such civilian trials since Gadhafi was killed by rebel fighters in October 2011.

Libya's new authorities have been criticized by human rights groups for holding prisoners without charge for months and for failing to bring to justice those responsible for abuses committed during the conflict.

Fathi said the trial would be open to the public and the media, but that the court could close the session to the public if it was necessary to protect witnesses.

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Russia's Putin, Medvedev complete job swap

MOSCOW—Russia's lower house of parliament confirmed former president Dmitry Medvedev as prime minister on Tuesday, completing a job swap with Vladimir Putin that has sparked protests against the two leaders' grip on power.

The appointment, a predictability was by Medvedev as Putin locked on, ignored growing concern in the country that keeping power in the hands of the same men who have led Russia for the past four years will bring political and economic stagnation.

Medvedev won more than 20 people, including two opposition leaders, when they broke up a peaceful protest near the Kremlin hours before the vote, after detaining more than 700 on the previous two days in a full-on flurry.

"They just started to grab people and put them in police buses," said Alexander Dellicos, 40, who was held for hours and ordered to appear in court on Friday, facing a fine or up to 15 days in jail.

As Putin's regime-aged biker and heavy rhetoric around central Moscow by police who harassed

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin (right) and former President Dmitry Medvedev speak in the State Duma. AP

them in and detained dozens more.

In Twitter posts from police vans, protesters opposition activists Alexei Navalny and Ksenia Sobchak, a television host who has fallen out with Putin, said they were among those detained.—Bloomberg Navalny later accused him in a day.

The United States said it was concerned by arrests and by clashes that erupted at a rally on Sunday a day before Putin's inauguration as president, when police beat demonstrators with batons and some protesters wielded pieces of sword fencing and flagpoles.

"We are disturbed by images of police administrative of peaceful protesters both during the protests and after demonstrations," State Department spokesperson Mark Toner told a daily briefing in Washington.

Medvedev's confirmation vote in the State Duma, the lower house, was held under tight security, with camouflage-clad riot police guarding the building were fitted square and police trucks and buses parked nearby.

Medvedev stood and nodded to Duma deputies to show his gratitude and then shook hands with Putin. The president smiled and applauded the outcome of the vote, one day after he was sworn in as president for a six-year term.

"I thank you for showing your trust in me," Medvedev told the assembly. "I am absolutely sure that if we work together we can achieve success."

Medvedev, 46, had told the chamber before the vote that Russia must reform soft tape, crack down on corruption and protect property rights to improve the business environment and become more competitive.

"The main tasks to business in this country must change fundamentally," he said before the 299-113 approval vote.

Medvedev pledged wholesale changes in the line-up of the government, without naming any of his cabinet, but said the new team would be sure of academic, pursuing a similar direction to its predecessor under Putin.

He also promised to be open to dialogue with his political opponents, though it was not clear whether he had in mind the senior Duma opposition, which has organized the biggest protests since Putin first rose to power in 2000. Reuters

UN nuclear inspector killed in Iran car crash

TEHRAN—A UN nuclear inspector from South Korea was killed and a colleague was injured in a car crash on Tuesday near a remote site in central Iran, state media said, the latest in an escalating aspect said.

Iran's state TV said the South Korean inspector was thrown from of the car. He was not wearing a seat belt, the report said, quoting police. The Iranian inspector was riding in the backseat of the car.

The TV showed video of the other inspector in a hospital bed, not seriously injured. It said the driver, who lost control of the car was also slightly injured.

State TV showed video of the Iranian surrounded vehicle.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement it was in touch with the inspectors' families and Iranian authorities.

The IAEA did not name the inspector killed in the crash, but Seoul's official IRNA news agency identified as Jeo Ok-Soek, from South Korea.

IRNA said the inspectors' car overturned near a heavy water reactor being built in Khondab, about 220 kilometers south-west of Tehran.

Iran has said the nuclear—part of the Arak complex—will be used to produce isotopes for medical and industrial uses. The US and others suspect that quiet, but China the reactors could be repurposed into plutonium for a nuclear warhead. Iran denies it seeks nuclear weapons.

The incident comes ahead of a new round of technical discussions between Tehran and the IAEA to be held in Vienna on Monday and Tuesday. Higher-level negotiations also are planned later this month in Baghdad between envoys from Iran and six world powers, including the United States.

Inspector from Rio. UN's nuclear watchdog agency regularly visits Iran's nuclear facilities, which include a Russian-built energy reactor and uranium enrichment laboratories.

The stops often results into attention than the high-level IAEA teams sent to Iran in February to assess in other sites, such as the Natanz military base near Tehran, where the UN nuclear monitors ordered work has taken place. Iran says Parchin is a conventional military base.

Iran's nuclear agency issued a statement offering condolences to the nuclear team helping as well as the victim's family. AP

US probes cyber attacks on natural gas pipelines

A DAMASCUS of cyber attacks has been targeting US natural gas pipeline operators, officials said, underscoring the growing concern about vulnerabilities in key infrastructure.

The Department of Homeland Security "has been working since March 2012 with related industry owners and operators in the oil and natural gas sector to address a series of cyber intrusions targeting natural gas pipeline companies," DHS spokesperson Peter Boogaard said in an e-mail to AFP.

He said the attack "involves sophisticated spear-phishing activities targeting personnel within the pipeline companies" and added that the FBI and other federal agencies are assisting in the probe.

Spear-phishing is a technique used to target a specific company or organization by sending fake e-mails designed to get employees to divulge passwords or other secure information.

The Christian Science Monitor first reported confidential alerts had been made to US energy firms.

A public alert released by an arm of DHS said the activity may date back to December 2011.

The alert from the DHS Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) said the attacks "have been convincingly carried to appear as though they were sent from a trusted member to unsuspecting individuals."

But the cybersecurity arm said none of the information about the attacks is "sensitive and cannot be disseminated through public or unsecure channels." AFP

Asia's super rich build their own art museums

HONG KONG—Over the past two years Wang Wei and her husband Liu Haijiao dropped a reported $50.7 million on their hobby. Now they need somewhere to display the collection. Don't be surprised if the private art museum that Wang hopes will inspire some class is Chairs Rudin's luxurious debut.

Wang and billionaire investor Liu are part of a new generation of wealthy Asians that is better known for splashing out on cars, yachts and private jets, mega-sized yachts and super cars. Some, instead, have built big art collections and now aspire to showcase their refined sensibility to a wider audience.

The trend is most apparent in China, where entrepreneurs who have gotten rich off the country's booming economy have been splurging on art, making it the world's biggest fine art market last year for the second year in a row.

As China's new kingpins art collectors, Wang and her husband—reported owning 29 different trophy pieces of contemporary art, including a cultural education.

"The rich homeowners have money but do not know how to spend it without shopping," the said. "I want to teach them to be more tasteful."

With that goal in mind, see museum is not enough for Wang. She is planning a second Shanghai museum that will start construction in August and open in October 2013.

Here are in the pipeline, bedroom-Chinese focusing to-coco Rock Bell is set to open the De Museum in Shanghai next year featuring Asian and Western contemporary art, after opening his first in Indonesia's capital Jakarta in 2008.

INDONESIAN-CHINESE tycoon Budi Tek poses in front of a painting by Gerhard Richter during an auction preview in Hong Kong. AP

Tek's museum will be housed in an old cement hangar across the river from the site of the Bund Expo site in Shanghai's Pudong district, on land that the government is giving to him as a preferential rate. Tek will meet the cost of renovating the building and adding extra wings as well as annual operating costs. He wouldn't say how much he plans to spend, but said "the operating costs will be expensive, buying works will be expensive."

Collector Liu Yi is planning one on the outskirts of Beijing, according to art publications. Industry insiders say wealthy collectors are planning museums around China.

Accessibility is a big issue for would-be museum owners, said Sandy Heck, director of Art 100, Hong Kong's second art fair.

"It's many millions of dollars for construction or refurbishment, and that's even before you've got to the art and before you get to the staffing and ongoing costs" said Heck. "It's not for the faint hearted."

A growing interest in philanthropy is one reason behind the private museum boom in Asia, rapid growth is creating thousands of new millionaires in Asia each year. Their ranks grew to 1.3 million in 2011, surpassing Europe for the first time, according to Merrill Lynch and Capgemini. Between January last year and March this year, China's top 100 philanthropists donated $1.6 billion, according to the Hurun Report, a Chinese rich list. That's about a fivefold increase from 2004 when the list started.

Part of this wealth excites people in the US and Europe when wealthy art patrons helped build museums that are now world renowned.

In the late 19th century, British sugar magnate Henry Tate help fund the construction of a building that would become Tate Britain. Tate's name is due to the donated to the country, paving the way for the network of renowned museums that bear his name. Billionaire Eli Broad founded the Museum of Modern Art in 2008. Businessman Solomon Guggenheim is best remembered for the iconic New York museum his foundation set up in 1959, which was later named after him. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

'Bomber in al-Qaida plot was double agent'

WASHINGTON—The man ordered by al-Qaida's branch in Yemen to blow up a US-bound airliner was a double agent who infiltrated the group and volunteered for the suicide attack, US media reported on Tuesday.

American officials looked out details of the extraordinary intelligence coup two days after the White House announced a plot by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had been successfully foiled.

The double agent managed to spend weeks with AQAP before handing over information that allowed the United States to launch a drone strike on Sunday that killed Fahd al-Quso, a senior figure who was wanted for the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen, the New York Times and other media reported, citing unnamed US officials.

A senior US official told the Times that a bomb for the would-be attack was sewn into "underwear fit," underwear that would have been difficult to detect even in a careful pat-down at an airport.

Unlike the device used in the failed Christmas Day 2009 plot by AQAP to blow up an airliner en route to Detroit, this explosive could have been detonated in two ways, in case one failed, the unnamed official was quoted as saying.

The main charge was a high-grade military explosive that "understandably would have brought down an aircraft," the official said.

ABC News had reported earlier that the latest plot by AQAP was thwarted by a spy who infiltrated the group and took the explosive to Saudi Arabia.

The CIA and other government agencies declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

Saudi intelligence likely played a pivotal role in disrupting the emerging possible prosecuting the double agent, former US officials said.

FBI experts on Tuesday were analyzing the seized explosive that officials said was an upgraded version of the "underwear bomb" used in the failed Christmas Day 2009 attack.

Although officials expect the attempted plot to be unsuccessful, they acknowledged AQAP remained determined to strike and its master bomb maker, Ibrahim Hassan Taleb al-Asiri, was apparently hard at work, seeking to circumvent airport security.

"The device has the hallmarks of previous AQAP bombs" that were used in a failed assassination attempt on Saudi's top counterterrorist official in 2009, Hilmi Mohammed bin Hayef, and in the failed Christmas Day bombing that same year, said a senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But the explosive had "some significant differences from the device used in the Christmas Day attack," the official said.

Former intelligence officials noted that Saudi Arabia was credited with uncovering an AQAP plot in 2010 to blow up cargo planes headed to the United States and that the Saudis are known to keep a close eye on al-Qaida's branch in Yemen. AFP

Bomb maker one of most dangerous

LONDON—A Saudi bomb maker believed behind several failed but ingenious attempted attacks on the West is the most likely successor of an improvised "underwear bomb" discovered in a plot foiled by US and allied authorities, security experts and officials say.

Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, who once provided the bomb for a suicide mission by his younger brother, a failure replicated, is described by security officials as one of the most dangerous and innovative explosives experts in terms of Qaeda.

Believed to be in his early 30s, Yemen-based Asiri became an apparent priority for Western counterterrorism officials following the targeted role in planning strikes on the United States in 2009 and 2010, plots that included the failed bombing of an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day in 2009.

Asiri, who received a US doctorate in chemical engineering, has also been associated with attempted assassinations using a hard-to-detect powdery substance called pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN, and hiding them in clothing or equipment.

"Two constants Asiri is behind all these attacks; there he is at the top of the list of the most dangerous terrorist operatives," Shashank Joshi, a Gulf security expert with good Saudi contacts, told Reuters.

Richard Barrett, who heads the al-Qaida Taliban sanctions monitoring committee at the United Nations, said he was "pretty certain" Asiri was the top suspect in the latest plot.

AL-ASIRI

"He has a particular skill for making things which are effective yet without being detectable," he said. "The triumph looks like an evolution from the one he gave the Christmas Day bomber ... and so I think it is likely we have been duped."

The Obama administration said on Monday that authorities in the Middle East recently seized an underwear bomb which they believe al-Qaida's Yemen-based affiliate, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, had intended to give to a suicide bomber to blow up an airliner bound for the US or another Western country.

A Riyadh-born former cleaning student who once planned to bomb oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, Asiri served nine months in jail in Saudi Arabia for attempting to join a militant group in Iraq to fight US troops there. Reuters

AN ORANGUTAN works with an iPad at jungle island in Miami.

Orangutans go hi-tech, use iPads

MIAMI—The 8-year-old female loves their iPad. They drawn, play games and expand their vocabulary. Their family's teenagers also like the handheld computer tablets, too, but the chief of them is not a person.

The orangutans at Miami's Jungle Island apparently are just like people when it comes to technology. The park is one of several zoos experimenting with computers and apps, hoping to let orangutans use an iPad to communicate and as part of a mental stimulus program.

Linda Jacobs, who oversees the program, hopes the devices will eventually help bridge the gap between humans and the endangered apes.

"Our young ones pick up on it. They understand it. It's like, 'Oh, I get this,'" Jacobs said. "Our two older ones, they just are not interested. I think they just figure, I've gotten along just fine in life, I would rather talk communication skill here and the iPad, and I don't need a computer."

Jacobs said she began letting the orangutans use iPads for animals, based on the suggestion of someone who had used the devices with dolphins. The software was originally designed for humans with autism and the screen displays pictures of various objects. A trainer then names one of the objects, and the ape presses the corresponding button.

The device's been a great addition to the enrichment programs Jungle Island already does with the orangutans, Jacobs said. Keepers have long used sign language to communicate with them. Using their hands, the orangutans can respond to simple questions, identify objects and express their wants or needs. The apes can also identify body parts, helping the trainers care for them and even give them shots.

"We're able to really broaden their horizons on a daily basis," Jacobs said of the need for communication with the orangutans. "We can do daily checks. If somebody's not feeling well, we know it's immediately." AP

Suu Kyi gets first passport in 24 years

BANGKOK—Burma (Myanmar) opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi received her first passport in 24 years on Tuesday ahead of a planned trip to Norway and Britain.

An aide to Suu Kyi, 66, in Rangoon said the passport was received from the Home Ministry.

Suu Kyi applied for the passport following recent political reforms that culminated in last month's parliamentary by-elections.

Last year, a coup ending military junta headed over power to an elected, nominally civilian government from Kyi's National League for Democracy, which won 43 seats in the April by-elections, will lead the small opposition bloc.

The passport is valid for three years. She has not had a passport since the military junta in 1988 to take care of her ailing mother, and was required by law then to hand it in.

After becoming leader of the country's predemocracy movement, she was put under house arrest for 15 of the following 22 years of military rule. But the Rangoon kept her from attending the ceremony in Norway at which she was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, the place to visit the country in June. AP

Chinese dissident wants officials to be punished

BEIJING—Blind dissident Chen Guangcheng has demanded the central Chinese government punish officials for blames for false imprisonment and years of persecution, saying on Tuesday that rights abuses under them despite the international uproar over him.

Chen, who wants to travel to the United States after saying he was mistreated while under house arrest, communicated in routine fogging "right defense" cases that brought him years of jail and beaten several and now lawyers also at home as a symbol of resistance to China's dictators on illness.

"I think that at least some responsible officials should be held over indeed," Chen said of his fate in a telephone interview with Reuters from his hospital room in Beijing.

"Like when someone hits you, don't you flinch? I think that debunking our rights is also a basic moral requirement," he added.

Chen's extensive communication on his plans and his demands ongoing between confrontations and frustrations, underscoring the uncertainties that shadow him and his family, despite the United States' warning for over two years to top-level focus with China.

Chen plans to study in the United States under a deal reached between Beijing and Washington. US President Barack Obama's administration had feared a standoff over Chen's fate could sour ties with China and hinder criticism of Obama's policies.

But time race ahead, Chen said he will keep demanding that Beijing investigate officials in some Shandong province whose he accused of engineering his jailing on false charges and 19 months of extrajudicial house arrest and abuse.

"I think (he) can make for what I still continue demanding that the central government somehow out a thorough investigation of (bombing," said Chen, wearing sunglasses (Chen) he said he had made to a central official who visited him in Guangdong.

"I raised very specific demands where a series of rapes ... that (Chen) should be held to account, (the) officials, no matter how high the official, no matter how many people are implicated, they must all be dealt with strictly according to the law," said Chen. Reuters

Obama reaches out to Asian Americans

WASHINGTON—US President Barack Obama, whose campaign has boosted heavily on courting Hispanic voters ahead of the Nov. 6 election, reached out to another important and sometimes overlooked voting group on Tuesday: Asian Americans.

A recent poll showed the fast-growing Asian American community is largely supportive of Democratic candidates even though they are expected to vote in record numbers this fall.

The poll, conducted by Lake Research Partners, showed that Asian American and Pacific Islanders identified themselves as Democrats over Republicans by a three-to-one margin.

Obama's seemed to know that as he addressed a gala of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies on Tuesday.

"For me, coming here feels a little bit like home," said Obama, who was born to Hawaii and spent his childhood there and in Indonesia. "This is a community that helped to make me who I am today. It's a community that helped make America the country that it is today," he added in a short address.

"And I know it can be tempting—given the success that's come to people here tonight—for people to buy into the myth of the 'model minority' and glance over the challenges that this community still faces," Obama said.

"There's still economic disparities like higher rates of poverty and obstacles to employment."

Obama's campaign is courting cast on a wide range of minority and ethnic groups, as the president battles Republican Mitt Romney, a former governor from Massachusetts, for the White House.

The Lake Research Partners poll showed only about a third of Asian Americans said they had been contacted by their party in the past two years.

A majority of those who identified themselves as independents—usually a prime target of both parties—said they had not heard from the political parties at all.

According to the 2010 US census, the Asian population grew faster than any other major race group in the last decade. Asian Americans make up nearly six percent of the US population. Reuters

Orbal Pak

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■ First Pacific bullish on PH, to invest P73B in '12 /B8
■ PH banks outperformed regional peers in 2011 /B7
■ DBM claims faster budget disbursements /B8

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Okada vows to beat Wynn via $2-B PH project

Tycoon dreams of making Pagcor City casino the world's best

By Dixie L. Lucas

JAPANESE pachinko tycoon Kazuo Okada—who is embroiled in a bruising intra-corporate dispute with his former partner, US gaming magnate Steve Wynn—has vowed to beat the latter's casino operations by putting up a world-class entertainment complex in Manila.

Speaking to a small group of reporters on Thursday, the chair of Japan-based Universal Entertainment—and one of four investors in the Entertainment City of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.—reaffirmed his commitment to invest $2 billion in the gaming development and, in the process, create up to 16,000 direct and indirect jobs for Filipinos in the service and manufacturing sectors.

Of the committed amount, about $100 million has already been spent by his firm locally, primarily for the acquisition of the reclaimed land on the shores of Manila Bay through a long term lease.

Okada, speaking through an interpreter, professed that the center of gravity of the global gaming industry would eventually shift from Las Vegas in Asia in the coming years, with the Philippines playing a significant part in attracting patrons from around the world.

"My dream is to create the best casino in the world here in the Philippines," he said. "This is why I'm focusing on the Philippine gaming—to make it the best in the world and to beat Wynn Resorts."

Wynn Resorts is the flagship corporation of Okada's rival, in which he owned the largest block of shares until he was ejected in a boardroom coup three months ago.

Okada claimed that Wynn's accusations against his alleged corrupt practices—as detailed in a report prepared by former Federal Bureau of Investigation director Louis Freeh—were unfounded and fabricated merely out of fear that he would end up controlling the Las Vegas-based gaming gi...

(See more stories on Page B2)

INDICATORS

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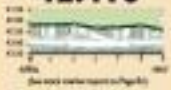
May 9, 2012
42.410



Stocks fall as investors turn skittish

STOCKS slipped on Wednesday as elevated prices dissuaded many investors from hopping on a rebound within the rest of the region's overall positions on the score zone.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 21.21 points or 0.52 percent to 4,214.76 as fears over the potential break up of the euro added to profit taking pressures.

Pund manager Gus Dy, president of First Metro Asset Management Inc., said the day's decline was mainly a consolidation.

"Some stocks have doubled [over] the last three months," he said, adding that investor sentiment were still upbeat.

STOCKS B3

Malaysian group sets expansion plan for PH bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

MALAYSIAN banking giant CIMB has unveiled an aggressive expansion plan for newly acquired Philippine banking franchise Bank of Commerce, after signing on Tuesday a deal to acquire a 60 percent stake in the bank from the Ayala Mitsui group for some P12.3 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Tan Sitpad Corp. and affiliates said they had agreed to sell up to 60 million shares in BoC. The SEC Endorsement. That said, however, remain the largest minority shareholder of BoC with a 27 percent interest.

CIMB, which has regional expansion plans across Southeast Asia, expressed optimism on its entry into the Philippine market.

"As an Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) universal bank, the expansion to the Philippines is a natural move. I believe we are entering the market at the right time, with the right deal and right partner," said Dato' Sri Nazir Razak, chief executive officer of the CIMB Group.

Incorporated in December 1963, BoC is the 36th largest bank in the Philippines with total assets of P96.3 billion. It currently operates 122 branches and 300 ATMs throughout the Philippines.

"BoC is small today but it

MPIC net profit surged by 91% in Q1 to ₱1.57B

Maynilad, Meralco contributed to revenue growth

By Doris C. Bureloo

INFRASTRUCTURE holding firm MetroPacific Investments Corp. grew its first quarter net profit by 91 percent year-on-year to P1.577 billion on the back of the surge in earnings contribution from its power and water distribution businesses.

Excluding one-off items, the company's core recurring net profit rose by 49 percent to P1.369 billion.

"The full year earnings outlook is encouraging and I believe it appropriate to guide our shareholders towards full year core net income of up to P6 billion," said MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan.

The core income net income is due mainly to higher profit contributions from Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Electric Co.

The company also benefited from recent investments in the hospital group together with lower interest costs at MPIC parent company.

In the first quarter, Maynilad accounted for P662 million or 46 percent of total contributions to core net income, representing MPIC's attributable interest in the company. Meralco contributed P634 million or 26 percent while tollway unit Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. delivered P367 million or 18 percent of core net income. The hospital group accounted P121 million or 7 percent of the total.

"The strong results for the first quarter reflect significant service level improvements and efficiency gains for all our operating companies," Pangilinan said. "We are starting to see these improvements in our bottom lines."

"All our businesses achieved strong growth in profitability for the first quarter. We are well placed for sustained growth in the rest of 2012, and I am encouraged by the generally buoyant economic conditions we are enjoying," added MPIC president Jose Ma. Lim.

Lim also said that core income grew at a faster pace due to significantly lower interest expense attributable to interest earnings from higher cash balance and the conversion of P6.6 billion to bonds into equity.

"That said is core earning interest and combined with the funds raised in the middle of last year, that has wrought in its 78 percent reduction in interest expense," Lim said.

The non-recurring expenses also declined because the value added tax credits that MPIC used to set aside were being used to pay liabilities, thereby eliminating the need to set aside VAT provisioning.

MPIC's share in the income of operating companies was mainly driven by the following:

- 7-11 percent rate in billed volume and 7-10 percent increase in all in tariff at Maynilad;
- 10 percent increase in energy sales and impact of increased ownership at Meralco; and
- strong performance from Makati Medical Center, increase in ownership at Cardinal Santos and acquisition of Asian Hospital.

The P6 billion core profit guidance for this year, MPIC chief finance officer Jaime Bautista said, would be supported by extra billed volume from Maynilad together with increased holdings in Manila Electric Co., expansion in the hospital business and low interest bill for the year.

ALI first quarter income hits ₱2.13B

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. expanded its first quarter net profit by 31 percent to P2.13 billion year-on-year on strong performance across the residential, commercial, office, hotel and other businesses.

Consolidated revenues for the first three months reached P12.29 billion, 17 percent higher than the P10.519 billion posted in the same period last year.

"We are again pleased by the sustained growth of our major business lines in the first quarter of 2012, riding on the crest of last year's banner performance," said ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael.

Revenues from real estate and hotels increased by 18 percent to P11.777 billion, comprising the bulk of consolidated revenues, buoyed largely by continued growth in the property development and commercial leasing businesses.

Revenues from the residential segment reached P7.04 billion in the first three months, 21 percent higher than the same period last year, on the back of a 49 percent improvement in the value of bookings across the residential brands Ayala Land Premier, Alveo, Avida and Amaia.

Sales take up value for the first three months of the year reached P1.9.3 billion, equivalent to an average monthly sales take up of P6.44 billion—49 percent higher than the record P4.21 billion average monthly sales take-up achieved for the whole of 2011.

The company's four residential brands launched a total of 2,693 units in the first quarter, with a total sales value of P11.3 billion.

Revenues from the sale of commercial and industrial lots declined by 11 percent in the first three months to P499 million due to lower commercial lot sales in Nuvali compared to last year.

Commercial leasing, which includes ALI's shopping centers and office leasing operations, posted total revenues amounting to P2.04 billion during the first three months, 21 percent higher than the level recorded in same period last year. Revenues from shopping centers rose by 27 percent to P1.29 billion.

Hotels and resorts grew revenues by 10 percent to P668 million in the first quarter of 2012 from P546 million in the same period last year "largely due to better occupancy rates and revenue per available room. Doris C. Bureloo

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Ayala raises P10B from bond issue

Listing of debt paper on PDEx set for May 11

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONGLOMERATE Ayala Corp. has raised P10 billion from the issuance of long-term debt papers and will list these 10-year bonds on the local fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. this Friday.

The bonds with an annual interest rate of 6.875 percent due 2022 have been approved for listing by the PDEx board effective May 11, Ayala managing director and treasurer Fernando Zobel de Ayala told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

"The listing of the bonds shall widen the reach of price discovery and transparency for the Ayala issues and enables participation across all markets on PDEx," Ayalawrote said.

The trading and settlement of the bonds will be in accordance with PDEx rules, he said.

Ayala core issues to build up its cash position to fund its expansion into new growth areas like infrastructure and power generation.

The bonds will be redeemable (in full but not in parts) by Ayala via call options starting on the 10th year and every year thereafter until the 14th year.

These fixed rate bonds due in 2022 obtained the highest local issue credit rating of triple A from Philippine Rating Services Corp.

Obligations rated "PRA Aaa" are deemed of the "highest quality with minimal credit risk" and "the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments is "extremely strong."

The rating firm said Ayala's share in the portfolio rises its diversified portfolio of investments in key subsidiaries and associates—such as Ayala Land, Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom and Manila Water Co.—combined to strengthen the holding company's predictable profiles.

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CDC to remit P300M to BCDA

By Amy R. Borja

SUBIC BAY Clark Development Corp. is set to remit more than P300 million in dividends to its mother company, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

In a statement, CDC chief executive officer Felicito Ubani Jr. said the state-run firm is now capable of paying its remittances for 2009 to 2011 to the BCDA after the management declared to foreign investors worth of the proposed corporate building.

The planned CDC building was aimed at consolidating all CDC offices and recreational facilities.

"In fact, we have requested the BCDA to extend the deadline for our remittances since we are expecting more capital expenditures in the future. But now we will forego construction of the proposed CDC corporate headquarters, we can now use the funds to pay our obligations to our mother company," Ubani explained.

CDC public relations department manager Angela C. Lopez, Jr. disclosed that in February 2012, the CDC turned over dividends amounting to P1.01 million to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) of the Department of Finance.

The remittance of dividends is in compliance with Republic Act No. 7916, which requires government-owned or controlled corporations to declare and remit at least 50 percent of their annual net income to the national treasury.

On Jan. 27, 2012, the CDC Board approved the remittance of 50 percent of the reported P209 million profit made in 2011.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES OF

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION
Registrant

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on April 18, 2012, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION (the "Corporation") for the registration of [illegible] shares in the amount of [illegible] with an over-subscription option of up to [illegible].

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the Corporation:

Name	Position
Henry Sy, Sr.	Chairman
Teresita T. Sy	Vice-Chairperson
Henry T. Sy, Jr.	Vice-Chairman
Hans T. Sy	Director and President
Jose T. Sio	Director, Executive Vice-President and CFO
Vicente S. Perez, Jr.	Independent Director
Ah Doo Lim	Independent Director
Joseph R. Higdon	Independent Director
Emmanuel C. Rojas	Corporate Secretary
Gina T. Sy-Coson	Treasurer
Corazon I. Morando	Senior Vice President - Corporate Legal Affairs, Compliance Officer and Assistant Corporate Secretary
Marianne Marie Z. Gaerlan	Senior Vice President - Legal Department
Elizabeth Anne C. Sy-Acuto	Senior Vice President - Corporate Services
Ma. Ruby G. Cano	Senior Vice President - Controllership
Cecilia Bayla Pamati	Senior Vice President - Corporate Tax
Luis F. Beaton	Senior Vice President - Internal Audit
Corazon Ybiel F. Galdon	Senior Vice President - Investor Relations
Reuben C. Dalupan	Senior Vice President - Investments Portfolio

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party upon request, at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe, or may be downloaded at the website of the Corporation at www.sminvestments.com.

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Cavite celebrates ISO certification 27 days ahead of schedule

THE Cavite provincial government headed by Governor Jonvic Remulla is celebrating the conferment of ISO 9001:2001 certification 27 days ahead of schedule, making another record in the first ISO certified provincial government in the Philippines. Announcement was made by Alicia S. Mojica, designated Quality Management representative together with the ISO core team that made rounds in the Provincial Capitol placing "DONE" stickers on quality policy banners installed in offices.

ISO 9001:2008 is a set of standards and requirements for the development of a quality management system commonly applied by private corporations and organizations to help ensure that the needs and expectations of customers are adequately and consistently met.

These standards also enable organizations to develop mechanisms for continual improvement of products and services.

The province adopted the principle of continuing a quality management system and started its campaign for ISO certification late last year while credential preparations were formally initiated in February 2012 with the launching of the Provincial government's quality policy signifying the start of the 12-days countdown.

Subject of the certification are the four core offices of the provincial government including the Treasury, Assessor's Office, Safeguarding Ordinances and the Office of the Provincial Governor together with three support offices—the Human Resource Management Office, Information Technology Division and the General Services Office.

The certifying body composed of Anglo Japanese American (AJA) Registrars granted the Certificate of Registration to the Provincial Government after finding no single major non-conformity during the second stage of the external audit.

Prior to this, the provincial ISO core team conducted three qualified internal audits to ensure the preparedness of the subject offices followed by eight management review meetings for corrective actions on weak points.

ISO certification process usually takes around six to eight months but with the dedication and hard work of the ISO core team and the cooperation of the entire workforce, the provincial government achieved the much awaited certification 27 days ahead of schedule.

PLDT FIRST QUARTER RESULTS BRIEFING

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan (fourth from left, announced recently PLDT's consolidated revenues increased 4 (year-on-year (YoY) to P36.7 billion in the first quarter ended March 31, the telco posted net earnings of P6.6 billion, up 9% YoY. Joining Pangilinan (from left) are PLDT SVP and treasurer Anabelle L. Chua; PLDT and Smart president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno; and PLDT Regulatory Affairs Head Ray C. Espinosa.

FLANTERIBANK, BHFI'S BICLOAN CONTRACT SIGNING

FLANTERI Development Bank (Flanteribank), the country's benchmark for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), recently granted a Small Business Liability Letter Financial Bolster—one of the most popular and fast-selling brand of insured homes in the countryside today. The loan facility will be used by Filipino Financial Bolter to offer more housing capital and to fund their expansion. From a one-member prize, Filipi's Financial Bolter has now grown to become a multi-awarded firm with plans of going to an aspiring player, instrumental in launching the bookmark to the Flanteribank Corporate Social Responsibility Movement prize (FlanteriBF) Foundation which facilitated the loan with Flanteribank. Present during the loan contract signing are Flanteribank chair and CEO Ambassador Jesus P. Tantingco (seating, second from left) with, Dina's Financial Bolter owner Jannifer M. Bautista (seated) and FlanteriBF stakeholder head Ma'Asunto Gloria Antonio Bautista (seating, fifth from left). Witnessing the signing are FlanteriBF stakeholder committee members, seated (from left) Ernesto R. Ilo Bautista, Wharton Ignacio Bautista and Peter Jr. Vicky Gonzales and standing from left, Ramon Garcia, Edward Ilo Ambassador Antonio Jose, Antonio Soto-garcia, Flanteribank president and CEO Ma. Micaela T. Ayala, Flanteribank president and CEO Ma. Micaela T. Ayala, Flanteribank president and CEO Ma. Micaela T. Ayala

Gov't debt stock down 1.6%

Peso strengthening, net securities redemption

By Rainier W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt stock went down by 1.6 percent to P4,915 trillion as of February from a month ago due mainly to a net redemption of domestic securities and the strengthening of the peso.

The February debt stock was, however, 3.3 percent or P157.9 billion higher than the year-ago level.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that 50 percent of the debt stock or P2.827 trillion came from domestic sources.

Local debt decreased by P68 billion or 1.6 percent from P2.875 trillion in January.

The decline was attributed to the government having redeemed more local debt paper than the volume issued.

About 42 percent of the total or P2.086 trillion was booked in foreign currencies such as the dollar, euro and yen.

Aside from loans extended by multilateral lenders and official aid from foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows overseas through the issuance of bonds denominated in foreign currencies.

Foreign borrowings in February decreased by P90 billion or 1.4 percent from the P2.176 trillion registered in January.

This was due mainly to the depreciation of the yen and the euro against the dollar, which shaved off P956.6M from the debt stock.

Also, the appreciation of the peso against the dollar helped push down total outstanding debt by P123.6M, data.

In February, government debt paper posted to dollars amounted to P1.060 trillion in peso equivalent while yen and euro loans stood at P926 billion and P364 billion, respectively.

The government's total contingent debt—composed mainly of sovereign guarantees—went down by 0.6 percent from its P2.21-trillion registered in January.

This was attributed mainly to the depreciation of the dollar, yen and euro.

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"With the installation of PLDT Watcher, you can monitor staff behavior, minimize shoplifting, and lessen employee theft. In fact, people are less likely to act out in a store fitted with security cameras"

Alsons posts 7% growth in Q1 revenue

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc., the listed holding company of the Alsons Group—reported a 7-percent increase in its first quarter revenues to P737.5 million from P672.8 million a year ago.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said the biggest revenue contributor came from AEDC's power generation subsidiaries based in Mabul, Tamugan and Zamboanga City which earned P511.2 million in the first quarter, up from P481.4 million in the same period last year.

The biggest revenue increment among ACR subsidiaries was reported by Luzon Utilities Corp. and Luzon Water Corp., both reporting a 15-percent jump in sales on locators in the technology center in Mabul, Tamugan.

However, Alsons reported that its first quarter net income dropped in the first quarter to P93.5 million from P149.3 million a year ago. This was, however, due to the non-recurring income generated by the company in 2011 that boosted bottom line during the period.

ACR said it expected net income to improve starting the second quarter as it just started the operation of its 100.2MW Bgao Sarael Power Plant.

In his same disclosure, ACR chairman and president Itemar L. Alcantara said the first phase of the Tamugnayan Foreign Trade Port Hub in Mabul, Tamugnayan was set to begin construction within the second quarter of 2012.

The Tamugan plant, which has an initial capacity of 105 MW will provide 70 MW to the Province of Tamugnayan, the City of Ormetal Palo, and two municipalities of South Catabato under a power sales agreement with the South Catabato 2 Electric Cooperative (SOCOTECO2).

Alcantara said similar agreements were being finalized with other utility cooperatives and export-oriented companies.

Okada vows

From page B1

ent.

Yesterday, Okada also revealed that his company had been manufacturing gaming equipment in the country for several years now, which were being exported to casino operators in the US, Australia, South Africa, Macau and Singapore.

The manufacturing facility, which is located in Laguna, is involved mainly in the assembling and plastic molding for machines used in the casino business.

Universal Entertainment—the single subsidiary Asian Gaming America — has also entered a real estate property in Indang, Cavite where it will put up another factory since the existing plant in Laguna reaches full capacity.

Okada added for this also owned a software development company in Bhakti City, which makes programs for the gaming industry.

He said Universal Entertainment had some $450 million in funds ready to be used for the Pagcor Entertainment City project as construction progresses.

He said his gaming complex will be completed by 2014.

Regarding his dispute with Wynn, the Japanese businessman revealed that his former American partner had visited the Philippines in 2007 when he first broached the idea of investing in Pagcor's project.

Wynn, he said, was initially interested, but changed his mind a few years later, reasoning that the Philippines was a "corrupt country."

Okada opined that Wynn's views reflected the latter's low regard for Asians in general, and Filipinos in particular.

Stocks fall

From page B1

Joseph Bonus, president of Regis Equities, said the slow from negative analysts that the Philippine stock market was now very expensive relative to the rest of the region also weighed down the market.

All counters fell during the day but the property (-1.225 percent) and mining and oil counters (-0 percent) suffered the biggest declines.

Value turnover amounted to P6.6 billion.

There were only 66 advancers, while were overshadowed by 125 decliners, while 38 stocks were unchanged.

The index was dragged lower by PLDT, DMCI Holdings, AC, ICTSI, ALI, MPI, DMCI and JGC.

Three companies that recently offered shares to the public—Shoemart, Eastwest Bank and C5 Capital — also succumbed to profit taking.

On the other hand, rejoin Andrew Tan-led Megaworld and AGI bucked the day's downturn, respectively, declining by 1.75 percent and 4.76 percent. DMC, SM Prime, BDO and BCBC also cushioned higher.

Dodo C. Dadoloo

Malaysian group

From page B1

ure grow quickly with its low loan-to-deposit base and high capital ratios. It also strengthens CIMB Group's overall regional online proposition of facilitating intra-Asean investments," he said.

Nair said the acquisition, our retail network will increase to 1,219 full branches, reaffirming our credentials of having Asean's largest branch footprint."

Nair said the CIMB Group was optimistic about the long-term prospects of the Philippine economy, being the fifth largest economy in Asean and the second largest in terms of population.

"The average annual real GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the Philippines has been about 4.9 percent for the past 10 years. This, together with the stabilizing political situation and pro-business administration, increasingly looks like with Asean countries and no wonder payments/banking market means the Philippines has the potential of becoming very important to us," Nair said.

On the CIMB's group's business plans in the Philippines, the CIMB CEO said: "On the wholesale side, we see the tremendous potential of delivering banking and capital markets solutions to corporations. The consumer segment will take us a little more time and investment but we can get our remittance products up-and-running quickly. The most exciting part though is the access to the SME ecosystem which is a huge community of SME entities as well as suppliers and partners."

Nair said one of CIMB Group's strengths was its ability to integrate and derive synergy out of its acquisitions. "I have always said that the ability to integrate an acquisition is more important than the acquisition itself. We have a great track record thus far and will look to that as we bring BoC into the fold," he said.

CALATA CORPORATION

Calata Corporation

Application to Subscribe/Purchase

Initial Public Offering of Common Shares with Par Value of Ph $0 per Common Share

This Application Form (this "Application") is not considered a Sale of Securities unless and until it has been received, duly accepted and confirmed and paid in full by the Corporation or its duly authorized representative. Please read and understand the Prospectus dated [ ], 2012 before completing this Application.

Applications received from other investors will be rejected. The Application is irrevocable and cannot be withdrawn by the Applicant. Calata Corporation (the "Company" or "Calata") is applying through the SEC Website for the Calata Corporation Application to Subscribe/Purchase. The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, the Application. Applications received by the Corporation after the deadline will be rejected. In case of over-subscription, the Company, at its sole discretion, may allocate the Shares applied for differently from the manner stated herein. The Company shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of any kind or nature arising out of or in connection with the Application.

All capitalized terms not defined in this Application shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Prospectus, unless otherwise provided herein. For purposes of this Application, the terms "Applicant" and "Subscriber" shall refer to the person applying for the purchase of the Offer Shares as the context requires. By the signature of the Applicant, and subject to the terms and conditions of this Application, the Applicant agrees to be bound by the terms of this Application and the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company, and applies for the number of Offer Shares indicated in this Application, and requests that such Offer Shares be issued in the name(s) stated herein or to the person(s) specified herein. The Applicant also agrees to pay the Offer Price for each Offer Share subscribed for in accordance with the terms of this Application. The Applicant acknowledges that the Corporation has the sole discretion to reject this Application, or to accept it in part or in full, notwithstanding receipt of payment. The Applicant agrees that the Corporation shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of any kind or nature suffered by the Applicant or any other person arising out of the rejection of this Application, or the acceptance of this Application in part only, or the delay in the return of the Application Payment or any portion thereof.

APPLICATION

Full name of the Applicant (Last Name, First Name, Middle Name) or Name of Entity

NUMBER OF OFFER SHARES	AMOUNTS PAID (PER OFFER SHARE) (in Pesos)	TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (in Pesos)
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

(Applications must be for a minimum of [ ] Offer Shares, and thereafter, in multiples of [ ] Offer Shares)

PAYMENT

The Offer Shares must be paid for through a payment instrument drawn against a Philippine peso deposit account and a foreign currency deposit account with a foreign currency deposit unit in any Philippine Banking Corporation authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to act as a collecting bank for the Offer Shares (the "Collecting Bank"). Payment may be made in cash at the time of submission of this Application, made payable to "Calata Corporation IPO" and crossed "Payee's account only".

TYPE OF CHECK	BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
a. Personal			
b. Corporate			
c. Managers/Cashier's			

REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND AUTHORITY FOR

With respect to and on behalf of the Applicant, the Applicant represents that the Applicant has the full power and capacity to enter into and perform the Application, and that the Application constitutes a valid and binding obligation of the Applicant enforceable in accordance with its terms. The Applicant represents that the Applicant has not relied on any information other than that contained in the Prospectus and the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company in making the Application. The Applicant represents that the Applicant has not been induced to purchase the Offer Shares by any representation made by any person (whether or not such person is a director, officer or employee of the Company) other than those contained in the Prospectus. The Applicant represents that the Applicant has not been induced to purchase the Offer Shares by any representation made by any person (whether or not such person is a director, officer or employee of the Company) other than those contained in the Prospectus. The Applicant represents that the Applicant has not been induced to purchase the Offer Shares by any representation made by any person (whether or not such person is a director, officer or employee of the Company) other than those contained in the Prospectus.

NAME OF APPLICANT (LAST NAME)	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	DATE
ADDRESS	APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Received a total of P [ ] (the "Amount")

To be completed by the Selling Participant's Authorized Representative

Name of Selling Participant's Authorized Representative

Signature of Selling Participant's Authorized Representative

By: Date/Time

Name of Trading Participant's Representative and Authorized Signature

Time received by the Stock Transfer Agent to be completed by the Company

Application received and approved by:

Total Number of Offer Shares Awarded: [ ]

By: Date:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR APPLICATION

For Individual Applicants:

[ ] 1. True ID (to be presented for inspection and/or for true copy/ies to be submitted)

[ ] 2. Photocopy of valid and current government-issued ID (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport or PRC)

For Corporate Applicants:

[ ] 1. A certified true copy of the latest Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Applicant, duly certified by an Authorized Signatory;

[ ] 2. A certified true copy of the SEC Certificate of Registration of the Applicant, duly certified by an Authorized Signatory; and

[ ] 3. A duly notarized certificate of the Applicant's Corporate Secretary that sets out the resolution of the Applicant's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the purchase of the Offer Shares subject of the application and designating signatories for the purpose, (b) the authorized signatories of such designated signatories, and (c) specimen signatures of the designated signatories of the Applicant.

For foreign corporate and institutional Applicants, in addition to the foregoing documents, a certification, in such form as the corresponding and representing that the Offer Shares subject of the application are not to be resold, transferred or otherwise disposed of in the Philippines, except through the facilities of the Exchange.

First Pacific bullish on PH, to invest ₱73B in '12

EDC sets aside ₱20B for projects in 2012

By Amy R. Remo

EMERGY Development Corp. has earmarked P20 billion for its capital expenditure program this year, as the Lopez affiliate moves to further increase its generating capacity from the current 1,210 megawatts.

In a briefing following the company's shareholders' meeting yesterday, EDC president and COO Richard B. Tantoco said about P9 billion of the budget would go to the 66-MW Burgos wind power project in Ilocos Norte, while the rest of the fund would be used for drilling activities within its geothermal concessions.

Tantoco added that a "decent" budget was allocated for the transfer of the 49-MW Northern Negros Geothermal Inc. (NNGI) to the Manila geothermal site to another location.

NNGI was shut down earlier because the steam resources in its northern Negros geothermal concession area could generate only 75 to 139 MW, which is far short of the requirement of the 49-MW facility in the area.

That resulted in a P6-billion non-cash impairment that had affected the company's earnings last year.

According to Tantoco, the 49-MW facility will be used as the Manila conversion area, which can provide steam resources to generate 45 MW at present, down to a 20-MW plant in Dauin.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FIRST Pacific group will invest around ₱73 billion in the Philippines this year through its arms in various sectors such as water distribution, toll roads, power generation, hospitals, telecommunications and mining.

In a briefing on Wednesday, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. chief finance officer David Hawkins said by the infrastructure group alone, the allotment was about ₱23 billion.

This is broken down as follows: Meralco Power Services (PSI) (₱8.3 billion), Manila Electric Co. (₱13.9 billion), hospitals (₱1.4 billion) and patient company (₱4 billion).

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., for its part, has announced P30 billion in spending.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of PLDT, MPIC and also of Philex Mining, said Philex would spend around ₱7.7 billion this year.

This is more than double the usual capital spending earmarked by Philex every year.

Pangilinan said about ₱1 billion of Philex' capital outlay would go to the gas exploration project of Oklahoma-based Forum Energy Plc., which acquired a 40-percent service contract No. 72 in their field.

The block is off the northwest coast of Palawan along the Recto Bank and was earlier expected to have more resources than the Malampaya project.

Forum's controlling stockholder is at the oil and gas exploration unit of Philex Dolphin Petroleum Corp. which has a 44.40 percent stake.

Pangilinan recently met with officials of state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp. one of China's leading oil companies for a potential partnership in SC 72.

About 42% to 43% million is now awarded to onshore and drawup the SC72 area.

Asked about Philex' interest to acquire additional shares in Lepanto Consolidated Mining or integrate direct shares in Manila Mining, Pangilinan said: "If shares were available, we'd like to do that, but as of now, there's nothing happening on that front."

Vehicle sales dropped in January to April

VEHICLE SALES fell by 6.4 percent to 44,752 units in the First four months of the year, from 47,763 units a year ago, due to the unavailability of certain models and the shutter selling period in April.

Based on the joint report of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Champ) and Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), sales in April alone declined by 9.7 percent to 12,004 units from 13,001 units a year ago.

Sales of passenger cars in January to April 2012 fell by 17.6 percent to 15,042 units from 18,261 units in the same period last year. Compared to March, April sales of passenger cars were also lower by 16.7 percent to 3,792 units.

Sales of commercial vehicles also fell by 0.6 percent in the first four months to 31,376 units from the previous year's 31,763 units. For April alone, sales of CV also declined by 7.4 percent to 8,882 units from 9,209 units in the previous month.

Of the commercial vehicles, sales of Asian Utility Vehicles posted an increase of 18.2 percent year-on-year to 12,475 units from 11,317 units, attributed mainly to the "good market acceptance" of the new models of Toyota Motor Corp.'s Innova and Avanza.

Sales of light commercial trucks, however, declined by 7.2 percent to 14,041 units in the first four months of the year from 15,446 units a year ago, while sales of light trucks rose by 12.7 percent. — Amy R. Remo

Pathway out of poverty

By Cesar B. Bautista

THE ABOVE text is taken from the theme of the Asian Development Bank annual board of Governors Meeting which was held in Manila last week.

Indeed, the mission of ADB is to reduce poverty, not by charity programs which are not sustainable but by the productive use of both human and natural resources in the countries.

We have seen in the last few weeks several articles calling for more active strategies and long term approaches toward economic growth with the singular aim of generating jobs and livelihood opportunities FROM TO before launching the 100 million population selling in 2016. DOLE offered 400,000 job openings to our jobless for last week but there are hardly for overseas work. Only 70,000 of those openings are actually for domestic positions which included low-quality jobs in fast food joints and temporary positions in department stores. It is therefore not an indicator of progress but a confirmation of the need for "emersion with integrity" as MAP puts it of the economic strategies proposed by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies to the National Competitiveness Council.

ADB wrote in their report before that the Philippines has an organic economy whose growth will be endogenous and consumption driven. ADB: "Taking the right blend to turbative Growth: Industrial upgrading and diversification in the Philippines 2012."

Indeed, during the manufacturers and producers summit of the Federation of Philippine Industries, AEM Consultants Dr. Peter Iliott and PEO head Dr. Josef Ilg shared the position that the country should broaden its economic activities to include labor-intensive sectors where we have the potential to be global players in industries, agribusiness, services. Ilyat geographically described this as an economic transformation toward "Walking on Two Legs" by undertaking a wider thrust on the mainstream diversified realm.

Ben Diokno, University of the Philippines professor, discussed the ADB report extensively in his column "Inflow Fed," underlining the prerequisite which is a coordinated rollout of the various arms of government to achieve the target of poverty elimination. He noted that the environment would result as a positive stimulus of the labor movement which would be taken in conjunction with the investment and government in building world-class productive facilities for the benefit of the countrymen.

The article "Can all Beauty with Job Creation" by Prof. Noel delline of the UP School of Economics, which appeared in the newspaper recently, emphasized the need for a dramatic economic transformation that will offer the people better lives for themselves, keeping the face than the country, but not had a formative leadership of industrial planning, the lacking government thrusts in both the public and private sectors can result in temporal successes and the shedding of wonder and wisdom. We are betting that President Noynoy's "Tuwid Daan" will be the bedrock of the economy's transformation.

In short, the need to start a synergic approach toward economic growth as described in my article last February on this column must be undertaken to remove Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo has taken the lead in defining the synergies of various "winning industries." It is important to allow greater play to the private sector to address the apprehensions of economic pundits against government activities including individual policies and executive strategies. We suggest that this joint undertaking be assigned to the National Competitiveness Council where the private sector has found their voice most heard.

COMMENTARY

We are happy to note that there seems to be a new determination of both to our leaders to achieve better coordination for quality investment strategies and consultations in marketing of markets, as reported in the Philippine Star on May 10, 2012 and Business World on May 10-11, 2012. We do not know where this will be now but hope that a results-based performance monitoring system will be the norm soon.

The private sector supports the initiatives of Secretary Domingo and will be prepared to play a greater role in achieving the broadened economic strategy either by contributing their available talents and their experience, such as the ones described in the Philippine Export and Investment Promotion Chambers, the PCCI and MAP. Additionally, they can also help in tapping world-renowned experts in strategy settings such as Michael Porter and David Hovenkamp of the Harvard Business School, Michael Porter in particular has resident on country economic strategies which resulted in improvements in living conditions.

UNIDO has reportedly offered in the past its expertise in analyzing 12 industrial sectors that it considers those would not be looked. But it is not too late to take them up on their offer especially with the initiative being taken by ADB in encouraging us to "walk faster on two feet." The PPP approach in developing this strategic terrain of this economy, described by Jesdi Sal as "unbridled upgrading strategy," will be a perfect platform to the president's focused fight against corruption in completing the pathway against poverty before the end of his term.

Prof. Gerry Sicat mentioned in his "Governodi" column earlier that only 26 percent of the Philippine economy can be considered world class while 40 percent are "mediocre" and the high costs we have as business being there is the long run. The private sector applauds the initiative taken by Secretary Domingo who can muster operational research expertise in reshaping the industrial sectors and the economy as a whole attuned to the vision of our country, i.e. zero poverty.

A decade from now, ADB will probably look back at the 2011 meeting of its Board of Governors as its most productive in terms of transforming of the country that was considered the sick man of Asia to one of its most progressive — a model for the area.

The author is chair of CDR Information Inc. and MAP National Competitiveness Committee.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE/PURCHASE OF OFFER SHARES IN Cyber Corporation ("Cyber")

This information supplied below does not purport to be complete and should be read in conjunction with the Offer Document dated 10 May 2012 (the "Offer Document") and the Offer Document Addendum dated 10 May 2012 (the "Offer Document Addendum"). Terms and Conditions in the Offer Document Addendum shall prevail over the Terms and Conditions in the Offer Document.

1. **The Offer** – The Company, through the Underwriter, is offering 30,000,000 Ordinary Shares (the "Offer Shares") at an issue price of ₱1.20 per Share (the "Offer Price") to the public in the Philippines.

2. **Eligible Investors** – The Offer Shares are to be offered to, and sold to and through the Underwriter, to individuals, associations, partnerships or trust, regardless of citizenship, or nationality subject to the restrictions on the ownership rules of Section 10 of the Offer Shares.

3. **Offer Price** – The Offer Price is ₱1.20 per Offer Share.

4. **Minimum Subscription** – Application is subject to the Offer Shares equal to a minimum of 100 Offer Shares, and thereafter in multiples of 100 Offer Shares.

5. **Offer Period** – The Offer Period commences at 9:00 a.m., Manila Time, on May 10, 2012 and ends at 12:00 noon (Manila Time) on May 16, 2012, Deadline for submission of application forms, signature cards, share guarantee slips or deposited documents for trading participants and investors under the 2% program is 11:00 a.m. (Manila time), on May 16, 2012. The Company and the Underwriter reserve the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period with the approval of the PSE.

6. **Application and Acceptance** – Applications and signature cards may be obtained from the Underwriter or the Selling Agents. A duly and fully accomplished Application Form, its signature signature card and, for duly executed signature cards, the appropriate check payment, and required documents must be received by the Underwriter or Selling Agents on or before close of the Offer Period.

The Company, by itself or through the Underwriter, reserves the right to reject any Applications or to accept fewer or more Offer Shares applied for in an Application, once expressly accepted by the Company, through the Underwriter, shall constitute a perfected agreement between the Company and the Applicant for the subscription to the number of Offer Shares stated in the Application, subject to (a) the terms and conditions set forth in the Offer Document, the Offer Document Addendum, this Offer Terms Sheet, and the Underwriting Agreement, and (b) the Company's receipt of the appropriate bank confirmation for the Applicant, and (c) the successful listing of the Shares on the PSE.

7. **Payment** – The Offer Shares shall be paid for in full upon submission of the Application. Payment must be made by a check drawn against a bank in Metro Manila in the name of "Listed Corporation-ATF". The crossed check must be dated as of the date of submission of the Application and crossed "Payee's Account Only".

8. **Issuance and Transfer Taxes** – All transfer taxes applicable to the issuance and sale of the Offer Shares by the Company pursuant to the Offer shall be for the sole account of the Company.

9. **Refunds** – In the event that the number of Offer Shares to be awarded to an Applicant is less than the number covered by the Application, or if an Application is rejected by the Company, then the Underwriter shall refund, without interest, through a check payable to the Applicant (or in case of joint Applicants to the first named Applicant) and mailed ("Payee's Account Only" refer to (7) Clearing Days from the end of the Offer Period, at, or position of the payment corresponding to the number of Offer Shares wholly or partially rejected. The refund checks will be mailed by registered mail or delivered, at the Application risk, to the address specified by the Applicant. In the event that the funds through the Underwriter and where the Applicant has been deposited, at the Applicants' risk.

10. **Will's judgment** – All the Offer Shares will be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp. ("PDTC") and recorded in Applicant's records at the Information maintained by PDTC in favor Offer Shares. The Offer Shares will be lodged by the Company with the PDTC prior to the Listing Date.

11. **Issuance and Delivery of Stock Certificates** – The Applicant may request further ownership of the Offer Shares be evidenced by stock certificates issued in his/her name or in the name of a nominee of ownership through his/her broker only after the Offer Shares have been listed. The cost of the issuance of stock certificates shall be for the account of the applicant.

12. **Registration of Foreign Investments** – The BSP requires that investments in shares of listed stocks by nonresident aliens or foreign currency be registered with the BSP. Only foreign exchange needed to service capital repatriation or dividend remittance will be accorded these by the relevant banking system. The registration with the BSP shall include investments in the Offer Shares shall be the responsibility of each foreign investor.

13. **Representations and Warranty of Foreign Investors** – Applicants who are not Philippine citizens or which are corporations, associations or partnerships that are not Philippine nationals, hereby represent and warrant to the Company and to the Underwriter that their application to purchase, and investment in the Offer Shares will not violate the laws of their respective jurisdictions, and that all approvals and undertaking of the Offer Shares are permitted in such jurisdictions.

14. **Restrictions on Ownership and Disposal of Shares** – Existing shareholders who own an equivalent of at least 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares of the Company after the Offer, are required to enter into a lock-up agreement with the Underwriter binding under the PSE, agreeing to a lock-up period of 180 days after the Listing Date. The lock-up period shall not be applicable to any sale, assignment, transfer, pledge or otherwise disposal of their Common Shares for a minimum period of 180 days after the Listing Date. The lock-up period shall not be applicable to any sale, assignment, transfer, pledge or otherwise disposal of their Common Shares for a minimum period of 180 days after the Listing Date. The lock-up period shall not be applicable to any sale, assignment, transfer, pledge or otherwise disposal of their Common Shares for a minimum period of 180 days after the Listing Date.

15. **Timetable**

• Start of Offer Period	9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 10, 2012
• Deadline for Submission of Applications for 2% and (2)	11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 16, 2012
• End of Offer Period	12:00 noon, Wednesday, May 16, 2012
• Listing Date and Commencement of Trading of the Common Shares on the PSE	9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 23, 2012
•	

16. **Local Small Investors**

The Company plans to make available up to 20% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE and up to 10% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Local Small Investors ("Minimum Local Small Investors" is defined as a share subscriber or purchaser who is willing to subscribe or purchase a minimum amount to an amount subscription or purchase does not exceed ₱50,000.00). Should the total demand for the Offer Shares by the Local Small Investors subscription exceed the minimum allocation, the Underwriter shall allocate the Offer Shares by balloting. Should the total demand from Local Small Investors be less than the 10% allocation, the unsubscribed shall be reallocated (and for distribution to the applicants public).

An interested Local Small Investor may secure the Application and signature card from the Underwriter and **submit in person** a copy of the Application, ID, original and 1 copy), 1 copies of duly executed signature cards and photocopy of 1 valid government issued identification (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport, or PRC). The Local Small Investor should submit the required documents and payment to the Underwriter on or before the close of the Offer.

PH banks outperformed regional peers in 2011

Most indicators reflect healthier banking system

By Michelle V. Ruiz

THE PHILIPPINE banking sector outperformed most of its counterparts in Southeast Asia in 2011 as investment and capital gains further and exposure to bad loans fell to its lowest level in a decade.

This was according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which said in its latest "Status of the Philippine Financial System" report that, given the favorable financial indicators they posted as of end-2011, banks in the country are considered less vulnerable to any shocks the backdrop of a risky economy in the rest zone this year.

"Key indicators showed further strengthening of banks' balance sheets with positive growth in total assets, loans and capital," the BSP said in the report.

Data from the central bank showed that the average non-performing loan (NPL) ratio of universal and commercial banks in the Philippines fell to the 3-percent territory last year to match levels seen prior to the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

NPL ratio, which many watched to decline, is the proportion of bad loans to total outstanding loans extended by banks. Loans are described as "bad" or "soured" if three months unpaid for at least 90 days after maturity.

Meanwhile, the average capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of banks in the country stood close to 17 percent, which is above the minimum requirement of 10 percent set by the BSP. A CAR of at least 8 percent is considered comfortable under international standards.

Meantime, the combined exposures of banks in the country for 1998 to 1999 rose by 21 percent from P613.86 billion the previous year.

"Banks remained profitable and provided positive returns to shareholders on account of wellmanaged operations," the BSP said, noting that the industry net profit that three of other banking sectors in Southeast Asia.

With the favorable indicators, the BSP is set to impose on Philippine banks the stricter capitalization requirements under the Basel 3 framework starting January 2013, ahead of the 2014 schedule to be observed by most central banks.

"The plans for Philippines alongside Australia, China, Hong Kong and Singapore which all have announced to adopt Basel 3 standards earlier [than 2019]," the BSP said.

The BSP is confident the economy in the next year will not have any severe impact on Philippine banks. It said that investments by Philippine banks in euro-denominated assets account for just 1.1 percent of their total assets.

The crisis in the West has raised concerns that banks based there may dispose of some of their assets—such as portfolio investments—considered risky and redistribute the proceeds to emerging Asian markets—in short term capital.

San Miguel Properties to invest P7.7B in new high-end projects

By Amy S. Ramos

SAN MIGUEL Properties Inc., the property arm of San Miguel Corp., is investing roughly P7.7 billion to put up three premium townhouse developments and two high-rise residential projects, reflecting the company's bullish outlook on the Philippine real estate sector.

In a briefing following the company's shareholders' meeting yesterday, Jose V. Asuncion Jr., head of real estate development of San Miguel Properties said some P5 billion will be earmarked for a 29-storey three-tower development in Makati, and another P3.3 billion for mid-level condominium project in this basis.

The three townhouse developments in Mandaluyong and Pasig are meanwhile estimated to cost roughly P400 million, he added. Each townhouse development will feature 20 to 25 units with floor areas approximately ranging from 350 to 500 square meters priced at about P8 million to P12 million per unit.

Kristy Uranza, head of marketing of San Miguel Properties, noted that this was San Miguel's first foray into townhouse development, adding that this was one way of expanding the company's project portfolio. This, she added, would ensure the continuous growth of the company.

These projects are targeted for launching during this year, and are expected to be mostly completed within the next five years up to 2017.

San Miguel Properties also said it plans to sell down existing inventory in its projects in General Trias, Cavite namely its mid-to-high income project Maxwells, upper middle income development Aston Lofts and affordable housing development Bel Alira.

"As we roll down the remaining inventory in Cavite, our company is getting ready to offer Bella members) to expansion to the growing demand of more-up and city-center dwellings," the company said in a statement issued yesterday.

Currently, San Miguel Properties is constructing a 20-storey serviced apartment in the Greenbelt area in Makati, targeted for completion by 2014. Also in the final stages of its master plan is the development of a 320-hectare property for commercial, leisure and residential use in Alfonso, Cavite to be named Bonifacio

Mine over matter

Conrado P. Rosal III

SURELY the guys in your favorite mining chitchat hook-up to the Philippines, the rest of Asia wants to be the focus of huge investment flows elevated for investments in mining, particularly countries centered on resource-China such as Indonesia, Malaysia and even Australia.

Theoretical, we are probably going to enter the train again.

Such was evidence during the recent Mines and Money forum held in Singapore, the reality of it has that brings together hard managers looking for new mining prospects, and executives of mining companies hoping to get in the eyesight of these managers.

One harvester concerns aired during the forum, coming from top executives of both mining and financial companies, was the frequent change in government's policies, particularly those on taxation.

It was agreed that, indeed, governments in all countries do change their mining policies. Then political risks should be one of the bedrock of concern.

In the same forum, authorities, surely, the Philippines was considered a politically sensitive area, owing to the change in mining policy that the Aquino (Part II) administration has been functioning in the past few months, counting four mining executives in a single day-using sentence that is mining.

The supposedly "new" policy already went through several revisions. Up to now, the public has been getting only snippets of the "new" policy. And what could be more "politically sensitive" than that?

Whether the administration cares to admit it or not, the fact that it must know the "new" policy at all...despite the existence of mining laws, was an evidence of the great mining debate that had ballooned up in this country you would regret the anti-and pro-sides to come to blows anytime.

Religious groups, mainly Catholic parish, have been joined the fray. They were mostly on the "anti" side. Media outlets have also gone there's lot of attention, to the point of being glorified.

Yet it still not really clear to us, now why they are vehemently, even passionately, opposed a particular type of mining...the large-scale variety.

In the business sense, there is none that the final product operator hopes to see mining is inspired by the touchdown concession on the environment, which is understandable. Large-scale mining had a bad record in this country. Today it is labeled as a destructive activity said to be endangering agricultural communities and coastal resources.

And so the protest was staged initially on the nature of the environment.

But why is it aimed solely against mining—and only large-scale mining, in that? This is still a big mystery to many in business.

Still, the last time I checked, illegal logging remained rampant...and the same anti-mining groups never attacked illegal logging. Small-scale mining, controlled mostly by local politicians, was also spared from the attacks.

In certain provinces, some religious groups and NGOs have even succeeded in forcing the local government to impose a ban on basis...but only on large-scale mining.

In Rhodora, for instance, illegal loggers have been having a field in the frame, despite an existing prohibition against the mining prohibition against the form of tarred to the heavily-forested Mt. Hebrin, the fourth highest mountain in the country.

Those anti-mining groups nevertheless could never argued against the fact that this country, in which more than 40 million of its population are poor, would need the economic stimulus that mining industry.

Today, despite the troubles in the industry, mining posted one of the highest growth rates, still accounting for 2.3 percent (from 1.2 percent five years ago) of our GDP or the gross value of goods produced within the country. And it is true to a measure if the entire economy. Based on available data, our mineral exports amounted to $1.5 billion in 2008, and still growing fast.

In Australia, by the way, mining accounts for more than 10 percent of GDP and more than 50 percent of total export receipts. Australia ships its minerals mainly to China, Japan, South Korea, India and the United States, which are among those that sell to or have in the Philippines a lot of products using those same minerals.

You may even have minerals in your bra—because of those ceramic and cadmium that contain mica, talc, iron oxide, titanium dioxide, which of course are all mining products. The innermost concern that we see this money in the bank contains this oxide—another mining product.

The irony of it all is that mineral resources are passive in serving "green" that we do enjoy a blue (pun not intentional), boasting teeth, limestone and fluorite), using computer (gold plus about 34 or so metals), building an overall body, house (cement, gypsum, and iron), cooking healthy meals (iron, aluminum, nickel and steel) or charging the cellular phone (nickel, cobalt and lithium).

In getting a medical check-up, we have to lay motion from cardiac the ground as well, such as the aluminum in your machines. Or in our religious activities, for instance, the elaborate drink wine from a bronze wagon silver or gold chalice.

By the way a critical environmental issue that needs our attention is the collection of garbage and trash—or rather their "un-collection." Nobody can excuse what kind of destruction else they are doing to our environment, prior to the world's calls, plus a voluminous song presently and our colleague Roman Tuble's.

I have known both Tuble and Chua personally for a long time and they have never impressed me as the arrogant types. They are the kind of guys who talk—persons to persons, plus can a first name basis—to the presidents of the Republic. Let us just say that they are both savant in their attending in their own committee.

I am not ready to believe that they could easily have created all that trouble out of plain bullets.

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BUSINESS

DBM claims faster budget disbursements

Abad urges government agencies to 'optimize' use

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ABOUT seven weeks of this year's national budget has been released as of mid-April, but Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said agencies must now use the funds to ensure that expenditures would improve.

Abad said yesterday 60.2 percent or P1.28 trillion of the P1.816-trillion budget for 2012 has been disbursed well before the middle of the year.

"Nasasiyahan, [the Cash] must be fully optimized, especially by the agencies that have already received them," he said. "Otherwise, the government's overall expenditure performance suffers despite the releases already made."

Of the amount already disbursed, P796.2 billion has been released to all government departments, comprising 92.9 percent of the P858.9-billion budget earmarked for them.

Abad said the 99.8 percent of the P423.21-billion budget for salaries of national agencies' employees have been released.

Likewise with the budget for maintenance and other operating expenditures, with 98.5 percent or P218.22 billion of the P222.39-billion budget already set out.

On the other hand, less than three-quarters of capital outlays have been released, with only P152.6 billion of the P206.44-billion budget released as of April.

Further, Abad noted that P59.93 billion or 14.4 percent of special purpose funds have been given out to cover the national, local and retirement gratuity benefits of retiring government employees, the third tranche salary increase under the Salary Standardization Law, and the subsidy requirements of government-owned or -controlled corporations.

Releases under automatic appropriations have also reached 57.5 percent or P416.2 billion to cover internal revenue allotments for the full year, interest payments and net lending requirements for the first quarter, and retirement and life insurance premiums.

"We expect all government departments not just to make the most of the releases, but also to submit documents and requirements that may be needed for the release of other funds," Abad said.

"At least P61 billion for government department units are still unreleased, and agencies can assure these funds until they submit their special budget requests and other documentary requirements in the DBM," he added.

NGCP invests P355M to stabilize Luzon grid

By Amy R. Rosco

THE NATIONAL Grid Corp. of the Philippines is investing P355 million to increase the capacities of South Luzon Substation, to ensure the efficient, reliable and reliable delivery of electricity within Luzon.

In a statement, the NGCP said the installation of additional equipment is expected to increase the "operational capabilities" of the substation and at the same time, help avert overloading of the existing transformers.

Scheduled to be completed within the third quarter of this year, the Naga substation expansion project involved the installation of an additional 100-megavolt ampere transformer, nine units of 230-kilovolt and three units of 69-kV power circuit breakers and substation accessories.

The project is under NGCP's Luzon Substation Expansion I, which included the upgrade projects for Naga and six other substations in North Luzon. The Luzon Substation Expansion Project is aimed at accommodating the expected increase in load, or power supply that will run through NGCP's transmission assets as soon as the new power projects start commercial operations.

These projects will be partly funded using a portion of the P34.5-billion capital expenditure budget set by the NGCP for this year alone.

NGCP is a privately owned corporation in charge of operating, maintaining, and developing the country's power grid and electricity supply/highways. Its capital maintenance activities and ongoing projects aim to enhance the system reliability and maintain the quality of power delivered to electricity users.

BSP eager to boost regional securities trading

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is keen on helping realize the plan to allow cross-border trading of securities within Southeast Asia, saying it is one way to help the Philippines and its neighbors enhance inclusive economic growth—that is, one that reduces poverty.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said central banks in Southeast Asia agree on the need to have deeper and more vibrant capital markets, as these would help achieve the goal of allowing the benefits of economic growth trickle down to the grassroots.

Guinigundo said that by allowing investors to easily buy and sell securities from any country within the region, capital markets of Southeast Asian countries will become more liquid and, therefore, able to provide more resources to finance investments and development projects. Consequently, he said, economic growth rates in the region would accelerate.

Economists said that one way to help reduce poverty in the Philippines is to accelerate its growth rate, which has averaged at just about 5. 5 percent over the past decade. They said the Philippines needs to grow by 7 percent every year over the medium term for growth to have poverty-reduction.

Guinigundo said accelerating growth, therefore, requires significant increase in investments, which in turn needs the support of more financing. He said increased trading volumes in the capital markets will help increase funding resources.

"A deep and developed capital market can address the issue of turnover and maturity mismatch and afford investors a longer time horizon, and in the process support more economic activities," Guinigundo added.

The BSP official said several bank officials from countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last week agreed to pursue the plan of integrating by 2015 their financial systems, such as by easing rules on portfolio investments to allow more cross-border trading of securities.

The agreement came as emerging Asian countries managed to implement measures that will make their economies grow "inclusive."

The Asian Development Bank, during the 45th annual meeting of its board of governors held in Manila, stressed that while Asian countries have consistently posted decent economic growth rates over the years, several of them, including the Philippines, are not able to translate economic growth into lower poverty incidence.

LifeStyle Food

NOMA'S Chef Rene Redzepi

Chef Rene Redzepi–how he runs Noma, the world's No. 1 restaurant

His formula? 'It's all about becoming a temple of deliciousness!'

I WAS the lone Filipino at the World's Best Restaurant Awards in London, England, last last Monday, April 30. Except for a few debates that I had last at the Miele foodie festivals in the past years, it was very memorable meeting—yes—in that Brixton spot. Fight long!

Margaux Salcedo

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the awards, it was a very successful event that brought together the world's best chefs, restaurateurs and food critics. We let's Thomas Keller, Daniel Boulud, Gaston Frescomanno's Massimo Bottura, Ignacio Mattos, Iggy's Ignatius Chan, Alain Ducasse and Ferran Adrià, among many others of the top 100 restaurants in the world who gathered at London's Guild Hall for this prestigious event.

With Veuve Clicquot to our hand and the other free to hoist the world's best meals, I approached everyone I could for congratulations and a quick interview.

Annual ranking

The World's Best Restaurant Awards is an annual ranking of restaurants around the world by Restaurant Magazine. I have had the honor and pleasure of having been part of the jury, called the academy, for the past few years, but this year I decided the awards for the first time. The academy is made up of food critics, chefs, restaurateurs and "highly regarded 'gastronomers'" each of whom has seven votes. Of the seven votes, at least three must be used to recognize restaurants outside your region.

Denmark's Noma once again received the much-coveted title of World's Best Restaurant. So I was happy to find myself beside Chef Rene Redzepi after the awards, while he was being bombarded with highfalutin questions about his success. "How does it feel to be the standard bearer of the foodie movement?" Were

(NEXT PAGE) C2

Moringa-enhanced 'dalandan' juice, coffee, tea and other healthy options

THERE'S A NEW way to stay healthy. Drink to Fusion Guzman. When she sent me a basket of Herb Best products, I was, to truth, less than thrilled. A local basket filled with all things healthy? About, should I say, boring?

While it is true that I wish to attain a totally healthy lifestyle, the closest to-do so comes with struggles and, like many, I still remain more enthused by the sight of sugar, salt and its ladies' treats.

But, after a while, the nagging sight of the basket both and me prompting me to finally open it. One by one, I started to try the items. Mind you, it took me two weeks to sample the contents, among them:

Refreshing drink

Dalandan Lite is a refreshing citrus drink sweetened with stevia. I had it with loads of ice and it quenched my thirst on that hot, sunny day. It's a light and easy drink, devoid of the sweet-powering taste that comes with artificial flavors. As sweet is the best description for it, and is the next best thing if you cannot get the real thing.

An added advantage to taking Dalandan Lite is the mixture comes packed with moringa and turmeric, as aside from vitamin C, you get the health benefits from both as well.

Next was the coffee, Bold Brew. Again, I was less than thrilled, for in my head, how could this sachet once brewed with moringa, agarwood, mushroom, mangosteen and gotu kola...ingredients that, in the world of alternative and natural medicine, are known to bring many health benefits.

Minimal difference

Tito Claveauan I pulled up a couple of days after I had the coffee. It is an all-natural chocolate drink made from dark chocolate and cabiya with moringa, dehon ng oli, saffron ng kamote and gotu kola. According to the literature on the box, it owns contains physalized fruit "25 times and 15 vup

HERB Best products

vitamin C than an orange." I take issue with a bit of sugar. Orange juice no sugar, artificial sweetener pa! That's too much. Give me (more!), a squeeze and a wedge of lemon or kalamansi. Sometimes, I even add tanglad or the whole water and steep it together or with the bag. I dare, otherwise, enjoy it cold.

'Singing' tea

Aside from beverages, Herb Best has furnished a preserve-ture, Mori, and scented flavors. Our singing and guitar duo, it also has malunggay spinach and carrot squash pasta, and even malunggay seed oil and many.

I really like the singing mix...literally! Health in a spoon! The taste and flavors flow freely, not as all overpowering, and does not ruin your tongue. Great with any fish or fish head! Syrup!

And did I mention that the pastas are very nice, too?

These proudly Pinoy-made specialty products are made exclusively for the company's desire to help honor the lives of their farmers. Last year, Herb Best International tied up with the Diocese of Borongan to "gain access to 500 hectares of tribal land to grow and purchase the produce for its use as raw materials, and provide ongoing seminal training so its partner farmers could improve their yield and income."

Such Herb Best product is geared toward wellness, though they have no approved therapeutic claims. As I see it, they give us healthy alternatives, but with utmost priority given to gustatory satisfaction. They try not to sacrifice flavor while at the same time giving you better nutrition.

If you are thinking of making adjustments toward a healthier lifestyle, try Herb Pantry and Herb Best and be a step closer to eating better and living well.

Call 8227193.

My book 'Kitchen Rescue 3, The Directory – My Lifeline to Eating, Cooking and Living,' is now available at all leading bookstores, or call 8474744.

E-mail the author at cupcakes@inquirer.com.ph

Fresh tuna sashimi, Korean seafood pancake, 'bibimbap'

THE VERY FIRST Korean restaurant I can remember experiencing was one located in the middle of Makati — which I would frequent (but place do, quite knowing that I would leave the place smelling of smoke from the grilled dishes they cooked in front of you.

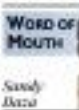
I loved it even before. I still remember the thick and meaty, seared beef, grilled beef, beef soup, a variety of cold veggies including kimchi, and some other unique dishes I never really came across in other Korean restaurants. There was cold vermicelli with chilli-tuna sashimi, it was not too spicy, it made my nose perspire. I've never forgotten that dish.

This type of cuisine has become so popular in our shores that many Korean dishes have also become a staple in Pinoy homes...bulgogi and beef soup, for example. I remember being "fast food" neighbors with a Korean outlet in many of the malls, and they had their fair share of patronis.

Regular patron

Ever since we opened our own restaurant, Wanders Space, I have been frantically scouting the city looking for good-quality kimchi wrapper. I'll personally drive from one grocery to another just to look for the right one. In one of those frenzied searches, I drove along Balagtas to Quezon City and noticed several Korean establishments have sprouted like mushrooms in this area...groceries, general merchandise stores, clubs, restaurants and even DIDI, sorod place!

Curiosity made me give the grocery a once-over. Today, I've become a regular patron of the Korean establishment. It's located on the corner of Kalayaan and Mindoro streets (street of Indio hotel across


WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Delfin. Because I am a curious shopper, I have discovered many Korean items, one of them Boin tee cream, which is a perfect remedy for this hot and humid weather. Ask the native which ones are the best sellers.

After a busy lunch shift at Wanders Space, my partner Ding and I like to drive around the area, hoping to discover some new eatery. In one of those drives, we hit the jackpot—a huge Korean restaurant along Balagtas. Bulgogi Uncle does not look like many typical Korean dining places. The place has a high ceiling and each table has its own exhaust to suck out the smoke from the sizzling grills.

Since I always want to eat healthy, I ordered a dish called Yesi Deuk Bab, or fresh tuna sashimi with vegetable rice. I don't remember what ling ordered, but we both enjoyed our lunch of Korean seafood pancake. And because both of us are calorie wars, we eagerly ordered Japchaebibimbap, or steamed dumpling.

While waiting, I almost forgot that usually all Korean dining places serve an array of cold veggies. I just love these. Sometimes I wonder if I should just order these instead. All of them are quite tasty here, and free.

Superb dish

The dish I ordered was one that has always intrigued me, especially when I'm in one of my healthy eating moods. It's called bibimbap—a mixture of similarly cut fresh veggies, lean beef, steamed rice with sesame seed and fresh egg. The whole thing is mixed together and the heat of the rice cooks the egg.

The dolsotbap I ordered had reddish Korean chili sauce, I noticed everything, including the spicy sauce, and the blend of textures and flavors of the veggies, and the frozen tuna chunks that got defrosted by the heat of the steamed rice underneath the stoneware pot made this dish simply superb. I loved that sesame taste; plus it was also very healthy.

As for the pancake, we both enjoyed it. It reminded me of a thin-crust pizza. This one, though, had gochujang sauce. Ummmi smiley on the square cubes of Singapore.

I didn't do sarsabenta when I tried the dumplings, though. Okay lang. There were many items on the menu that looked interesting as well. I also bought some homemade kimchi since my family learned to eat our meals with this when my daughter Ali would have her Korean friend over. Her friend's mother would give us kimchi that she made herself.

Another dish I want to try it appetizer, or Korean assorghum, which I love when made well. I like the thick gremlich assorghum used for the dish.

Korean restaurants have sprouted all over the country and just like many Pinoy households, we eat all of them never good food. This one, however, is one of those worth trying.

Bulgogi Garden is at 121 Kalayaan Ave., Diliman Quezon City; tel. 3025915.

Tweet me @sandydaza or hit line my blog at sandydaza.blogspot.com

Chef Rene Redzepi—how he runs Noma . . .

From page F1

Keeping a moment

A casual, cheerful chef who kept posting his colleagues on the back and smiled tirelessly, Redzepi broke down his formula for becoming the world's No. 1 to this: It's all about deliberateness!

"It's about becoming a temple of deliberateness, if you will," he said in a quick interview. Everything centers around this mission to make what we eat delicious. "Customers need to just think and eat," he explained. "But for us it's about keeping a moment."

Perhaps the title of being the "standard bearer of the Nordic movement" developed from the results at Noma's new website (noma.dk). At Noma, we wish to offer our personal rendition of Nordic gourmet cuisine with an innovative gastronomic take on

DANIEL Boulud

traditional cooking methods, fine Nordic produce and the legacy of our shared food heritage. Above, most, we regard it as a personal challenge to help bring about a revival of Nordic cuisine and let its distinctive flavors and particular regional character heighten up the world... We've been busy exploring the Nordic region this evening, unearthing foods and bringing them back to Denmark, Icelandic sheep cured, halibut, Greenland musk ox, berries and wasps!"

But in this candid moment, of our discovering the wrap title, Redzepi brought it back to Nature. "We support our colleagues who are into this movement to improve organic produce. The choice for a healthy ecology is to build life-changing. But, in the end, it comes down to dollar choices. We realize that the quest for healthy produce is to sync with our quest for deliciousness. It's simple. If it's fresh, organic—it's more delicious. There is a synthesis."

Redzepi was extremely grateful to the awards body, stating that the honor he received has increased the number of reservations at Noma, professedly. The number he gave was indeed astounding: For this coming January, Noma has 1,200 reservations. And his restaurant only seats 40. Otherwise, he said, "Nothing much has changed [with me—except I now have two kids."

He is now being compared to El Bulli's Ferran Adria, which was ranked World's No. 1 a record five times for the humble Redzepi deserved. "Ferran will be the greatest chef of all time," he said.

Much admired

Another much-admired chef who was honored that night was Thomas Keller of Per Se. (2011 Best Restaurant in North America) and French Laundry (he was given a Lifetime Achievement award). In his acceptance speech, he shared the philosophy which drives him to be as thorough in his cuisine: "Food is about our caring." If you just about flavors, it most certainly can't end.

As yes, there is an exception for Filipino chefs. But just as Filipino chefs and restaurateurs have made their mark in Asia's Best 50 Restaurants, the time will come, count them here!

Next year, Restaurant Magazine is launching Asia's 50 Best Restaurants in Singapore. Within the next few years, I hope to see a Filipino chef not just on Asia's Best list but also on the World's Best list, alongside the likes of Keller, Alex Atala of D.O.M., Brazil and, yes, Rene Redzepi of Noma.

World's Top 10

1. Noma, Denmark
2. El Celler de Can Roca, Spain
3. Mugaritz, Spain
4. D.O.M., Brazil
5. Osteria Francescana, Italy
6. Per Se, New York
7. Alinea, Chicago
8. Arzak, Spain
9. Dinner, London
10. Eleven Madison Park, New York

THE WORLD'S Best Chefs including Thomas Keller (in pink tie), Pierre Gagnaire (best female Chef awardee Elena Arzak), Mario Batali (fourth from right) and Daniela Franceschini's Massimo Bottura (fifth from right)

CHOCOLATE fudge bars

CHOCOLATE milkshake

MOTHER'S DAY TREAT AT HIC'S

This Mother's Day, treat your mom to a wide variety of fudge bars. Try Hic's signature Double Fudge, Oatmeal, Walnut and Mint Chocolate Fudge Bars, or leave the best wine and try them whipped into our cold gourmet frappes.

Celebrate at Hic's Gourmet Desserts and try one of its bestsellers, Chicken Parmigiana, crumbed chicken topped with melted mozzarella cheese over homemade tomato sauce served with Pomodoro and Arabiata wheat ciabatta.

Hic! Hic's Bitstop at ITC4, Molino, Bacoor; tel. 7118811, 7168222; e-mail hicsdesserts@gmail.com; visit www.facebook.com/hicsdesserts.

CHICKEN Parmigiana with Pomodoro

Buffet treats for Mom

GMALITE pays tribute to mothers by giving freshness through its special Pick-a-Pizza Promo. Moms get a chance to win prizes such as beauty products from Beaute cosmetics and a free Cebuano refresher of her choice.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila has been an institution for celebrating Mother's Day with a lavish buffet spread. This year, the hotel's Spiral Restaurant will offer a delectable array of delicacies from the sea, land and air, as well as a wide selection of Filipino, Asian and international favorites.

Highlights include Jamon Serrano, Gravlax, Tiger Prawns, Oysters, Mussels, Roast Beef, Lechon Kawali, Pancit Canton, Sinigang na Hipon, Kare-Kare, Pinakbet, Pasta Station, Sushi and Sashimi, Dessert Station, Chocolate Fountain, Ice Cream Station, Fresh Fruits and Cheese Station.

Spiral is open for lunch and dinner. Pricing is P1,888 net per person. For reservations, call 832-3477 local 7777 or e-mail spiral.restaurant@sofitel.com.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila is located at CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

GMALITE's cebuchoco

Treat Mom to a delicious meal at Cebu Country Club's Clubhouse Restaurant on Mother's Day, May 13. Choose from a wide selection of delectable dishes from the buffet spread, which includes Cebu Country Club's signature lechon, Filipino favorites, Asian delicacies, and a wide array of desserts.

Buffet lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Lunch buffet is priced at P1,200 net per person, while dinner buffet is priced at P1,500 net per person.

For reservations, call 412-5555 local 5555 or e-mail cebucountryclub@gmail.com.

Cebu Country Club is located at Barrio Kalubihan, Talisay City, Cebu.

Celebrate Mother's Day at The Bellevue Resort's Café d'Bute which has a number of international specialties such as Hungarian Beef Goulash Stew, Bohemian Colored Garden Vegetables, Braised Salmon in Saffron Beurre Blanc and Prime Rib, for just P1,280 net. For reservations, call (7) 161-261, 254-7, 419-191 or 419-187, 161-181.

The Aristocrat Bakeshop

Moms will surely cherish The Aristocrat Bakeshop's wide selection of breads and pastries, like Torta delos Reyes and Bibingkang Galapong, both delicacies of six layers of wonders, with butter cream with chocolate garnishes. Chocolate Supreme is an layer cheesecake cake with chocolate filling and icing, adorned with chocolate flowers. Tea Sinamalas (sweet bite-sized snacks) and bite-sized cheese sticks, the cashmere Bars to Make, Cashmere is a bigger version of ornaments topped with cashew nut and cheese shavings), and Cheese Roll (cheese baked bread) stuffed with cheese, definitely a treat for cheese lovers).

For inquiries and reservations, call (032) 624-4671 to 80 or e-mail info@aristocratbakeshop.com.

InterContinental Manila

At InterContinental Manila, take advantage of the Mother's Day Room Package consisting of an overnight stay in a Deluxe Room with buffet breakfast for two at Café Jaspreay and a free buffet lunch or dinner for Mom at Café Jaspreay on May 13 for just P8,888++. Moms will also get a chance to win the lovely gift display. The package will be offered from April 29-May 13 (inclusive) residents and expatriates with valid ACR.

The Prince Albert Ballroom will be open May 12 for dinner and May 13 for lunch and dinner. Treat Mom to an exquisite chef attended Belshan's set menus created with her in mind. The lunch set menu is priced at P2,888+, while the dinner set menu is at P2,888+ per person.

Mom's pampering of these menus at InterCon will be entitled to pick a gift from the lobby gift display. Meanwhile, lunch and dinner buffets with live music entertainment await Mom and the family at Café Jaspreay on May 13. Buffet prices are P2,888/adult and P1,888/child below 12 years old. Gift coupons are Clinique, Rose Polge beauty, Olivia Lopez Lobin & Aesthetics Center, Anne Klein watches and Appetite Magazine. For more info or reservations, call 793-1000.

Peking Garden

Hong Kong's famous fine-dining restaurant Peking Garden has launched outlets in the Philippines. Known for its mouth-watering Chinese cuisine, the restaurant offers a special set menu this Mother's Day. It includes four kinds of appetizers, lamb and with roasted chicken soup, its signature dish of Peking duck, deep fried prawn with cashew nuts in black vinegar sauce, steamed tapioca au Pekingstyle, poached zucchini with dried scallops and Q mushrooms, baked crabs in butter and cheese on flat noodles, steamed supreme soup and pork dumpling, and chilled honey-dew melon with sago for dessert—all P 16,888++ net for 12 persons.

Until May 11-13, every order of its special Mother's Day set menu entitled guests to one complimentary bottle of Blanc S. Agustus Rose wine. On Mother's Day, all moms will be served a glass of Moët S. wine, too.

Open daily for lunch and dinner, Peking Garden is at 3/F, Philippine Park, Roxas Blvd. cor. Arnaiz Ave., Pasay City (852-3001 and 411-3000 local 3 Ayala Center, Makati City (7729000 / 7729333).

Luk Yuen

Luk Yuen, a favorite family Cantonese restaurant since 1981, invites diners to treat their moms to its array of dimsums and dumplings, which include steamed chicken siopao with pork, Shanghai buns, shrimp dumplings, sautéing siomai, Cantonese shrimp har kow, pork dumplings, vegetable dumplings, steamed eggplants, siu mai vegetable dumplings, dumplings in hot chili, and vegetable dumplings with shrimp.

Open daily, Luk Yuen has five outlets—Glorietta 2, Ayala Center (tel. 888-0118), Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center (tel. 757-0821), Quad A Entry Mall (890-0178, 890-0179), Greenhills Shopping Center (721-2820 / 721-2930), SM Megamall (Bldg. B Basement (633-0288, 633-1532) and Alabang Town Center (771-4662 / 772-0878).

Casa Armas

This Mother's Day, Casa Armas Tapas

MACARON HUG

HAAGEN-DAZS

Ambiguate Mom's special day with Häagen-Dazs Macaron Hugs. A new take on the traditional French macaroons, which have been a favorite delicacy for 100 years, each Häagen-Dazs Macaron Hug is made with a shell of rich chocolate-hazelnut cream ice cream, with a layer of smooth Chantilly cream in between. It comes in different flavors (Cafe, Chocolate, Strawberry, Caramel Biscuit and Cream, Strawberry), and are available at all Häagen-Dazs shops (Greenbelt 3, SM Megamall 4/F (7041 111), Robinsons Place Manila (5127972), Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6348 88) and Eastwood City (6-930).

TORTELLINI and dumplings

Ibe Y Restaurante offers special gifts for moms who will dine-in at the restaurant. Casa Armas will give a free dessert for a minimum purchase of P2,000. Likewise, guests can now enjoy the newly-opened branch at Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Ayala Center, Makati City. Other outlets are at GF The Podium, Bridges Center, Mandaluyong City, and at 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City.

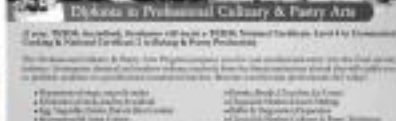
For reservations, catering, or takeout inquiries, call 6803016 / 6813604 (Ibe Podium), 8813661 / 8073606 (Jupiter St., Makati City) and 7241661 / 7241666 (Greenbelt 2, Makati City).

GALILEO'S ITALY AT EASTWOOD CITY WALK 1

Enjoy Italian food and wine at Eastwood City's Galileo Ristorante Bar. Among the recommended items is Risotto Con Porcini Mushrooms and Truffle Oil, ideal for vegetarians. This is best paired with Barbaresco Montaloro red wine from the resto's extensive vintage collection. Call 9133-6666844 for reservations or visit the Eastwood City branch at City Walk 1.

RISOTTO Con Porcini Mushrooms

Diploma in Professional Culinary & Pastry Arts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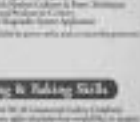


Cook up your success at

Dining Out

Bellevue Hotel

ROAST Chicken

THREE NEW ROAST CHICKEN SAUCES

Celebrate Mother's Day with Kenny's new Savory Roast Chicken, which comes with three new sauces, each sauce complementing the chicken differently. These are Cracked Peppercorn Sauce, Rosehall gravy doused with cracked black peppercorn; Barbecue Sauce; and Creamy Mushroom Sauce, savory gravy peppered with mushroom bits. Savory Roast Chicken is available with Solo Plates, Group Meals, Healthy Platters and Combo Meals, and is available for dine-in and takeout. Call 5559999 for Kenny's free delivery. For more details, visit www.kennys.com.ph.

THE RED CRAB ALIMANGO HOUSE

TYPHOON Shallow Crab

This Mother's Day, treat moms to The Red Crab Alimango House, which offers Typhoon Shallow Crab, Flour-Chili Crab, Crab Marinara, Seagida World Queen and King Seafood Platter, Pinoymidae Seafood Pie Pie, Sea shrimps cooked in clay boil, Shallow Burgos Baby Shipping at Barrios, Platito Recto wrapped tamarind adobado Sun-Burgos de Bicol, Seafood in Curries and Chilies, Kare-Kare. Located at G/F Plaza Penon, Penon Hill, Iloilo Business Park, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, Tel. 320-1111, 319-2888 Mobile: 0917-3111, 0917-3111, 0917-3111,

Traditional French jams—handmade in Mandaluyong

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fierro

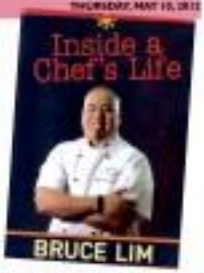
I hope Theo Marmonier continues to make new jams from our many local fruits

HERE'S Pia Frank's condo next, I was puzzled that a little boy was going the same way. He must have been patched as well because he kept looking at me. We both waited at the door and when it was opened, he was called me by name, Theo Marmonier.

And there Theo was again when his parents launched their new line of jams. Pierre and Andrea Marmonier welcomed me the same way they did when I went to their production place in Mandaluyong. That was two years ago, when I discovered The Fruit Garden line of jams. It was at a store and the packaging attracted me. The bold,big sun impressive, as well as the design of the logo. I think what lured me to know their story was that Pierre was French and yet he was doing his jams here.

Pierre used to work for a winery firm that brought him on assignment in many parts of the world. In North Africa, he felt that his family was safer if they lived here, so with restless Allemany's home country,

PEANUT salad with mango-durian vinaigrette



CHEF Bruce Lim on the cover of his cookbook

GRILLED pork belly marinated in mango-pepalomon jam

to be asked to be assigned here.

Summer memories

The idea of producing jams harks back to Pierre's memories of summers in France where his mother made jams from the cherries he picked from the cars in their yards. He felt it necessary to use the traditional way to make these jams. That included employing copper cauldrons, which Pierre explained doesn't react with the fruit and distributes the heat evenly, preventing overcooking in some areas.

Our grandmothers did have the same idea when they used the cauldron to cook sweets, cast-iron stopper tin. But Pierre also uses current technology like a refractometer to check that the sugar content is just the right level (more sugar in a solution results in a higher refractometer reading).

While Pierre did the cooking, Andrea handled the jams. The Fruit Garden jams are handmade in their entirety. At the time, the farmers were divided into three basic fruits, then these were combined with other ingredients. Mango was mixed with ginger, spices and lavender; pineapple with mango and coconut; durian, strawberry with tonic and banana. It was surprising to be told that lavender is available locally.

New mixes

Since that time, The Fruit Garden has added new mixes in its line, and a lunch was prepared at The Chef's Table at Bonifacio Global City which sampled the jams to create flavors for the dishes. Pierre had broached that idea during our first meeting when he said the mango-ginger jam could be mixed with coriander to stuff fish for grilling, added to pancakes and yogurt, and used to layer chocolate mousse with mango-lavender.

That idea was going to be realized by the restaurant's owner and chef, Bruce Lim. Those who watch Asian Food Channel's "Tablemanners" and "The Next Celebrity Chef" will find chef Lim's big presence familiar. That day, he had four courses with the new jams all combined with mango-avocado.

The starter was seared prawn salad with a vinaigrette using the Mango-Durian jam. I'm so glad that Pierre and Andrea were quite adventurous and added durian in their mixes. The durian's aroma (I like the smell) dominated, but turn-wise the durian was ruffled around. For those who like durians, this can put a smile on your face, probably for sheer audacity.

Wonderful flavors

Chef Bruce made a perfect grilled pork belly that was personally marinated in Mango-Calamansi jam for five hours then wrapped in plastic over night, the pork simmered in water for a low-tech sous vide method. Again, you could discern the jam flavors, wonderful with the pork and the sweet pepalomon accompaniment.

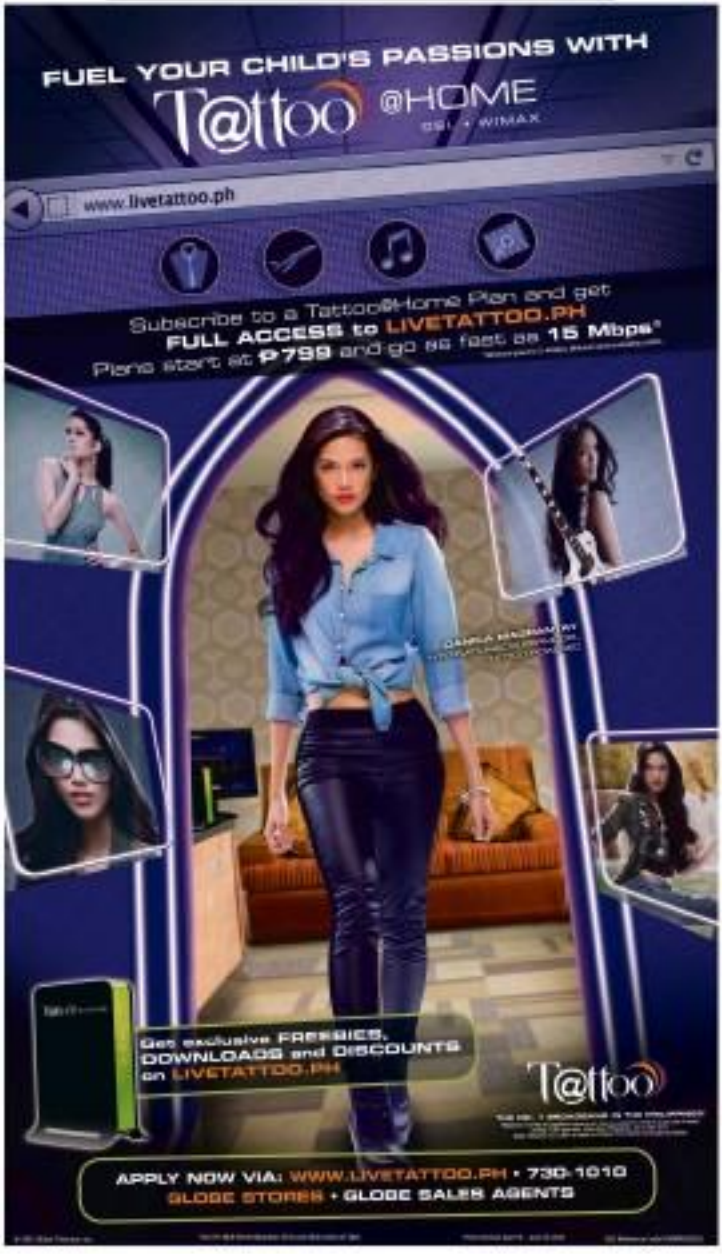
Mango-Ginger was used to marinate prawns that were placed in banana leaf pouches and baked there. The technique is in the fashion of Pinoy's "inasal. Read in the pouches then steamed or grilled. While my Lolomadre didn't want rice, I asked her if, she better to taste the sweet from the jam and prawns.

Jam in dessert is not a new thing. But chef Bruce cooked the salted bananas with the mango-ginger jam and then had the jam also in the ice cream topping. Ice-cream like. You can imagine how delicious that was.

I hope Theo Marmonier continues his parents' business and make new jams from our many local fruits.

The Fruit Garden products are available at Beat Theirs, Hotel and Restaurant, at the Market Deli at Makati and Deli Deli in Tivoli Ave., QC.

DanielPinay@mail.com



LIFESTYLE Food

Marinated Norwegian diver scallops, Iberian pork collar barbecue—sampling the Oscars of gastronomy

An insider account of the biggest epicurean gathering in Asia

By Anna Isabel C. Subropena
Contributor

SINGAPORE—BRUNCH at The Capella was a major event at the World Gourmet Summit (WGS). Norwegian wasps and Australian parsnips were highlighted at the expansive ballroom of this luxury hotel in Sentosa. Beside the seafood served fresh on ice and in other reincarnations, there were carving stations for lamb and halibut.

The event gathered luminaries of the culinary world who provided a sampling of their cuisine in different stations set up throughout the venue.

All cuisine had been sold out at what could only be described as gastronomes' heaven. It was dizzying trying to decide where to begin. An internal debate raged over whether to sample as much as was available or to be selective and follow gastronomy tourisms.

It was also a challenge to give the food full attention when some of the celebrated masters of the culinary world were on the premises and the opportunity to meet them in person was a strong likelihood. The dilemma is understood by food enthusiasts who build chefs, sommeliers and winners in such the same regard as others would a rock star or movie star.

Marco Pierre White, [illegible] the Legendary Chef Dinner one evening, featuring his signature dishes at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. The British connoisseur made history in 1994 when, at 33, he received three Michelin stars, becoming the youngest at that time to be accorded top distinction.

The golden boy of Russian cuisine, one Michelin-starred Anatoly Komm, had also come to serve up his brand of specialty paired molecular food at another gala dinner. Wunderkind Michel Sarran had flown in from Toulouse to share the story of his journey through a five-course meal at Tungkat Group's My Humble House.

The roster of award-winning luminaries was another feat for the organizers of the 18th annual event, who conceptualized an epicurean celebration that has drawn thousands of foodies, business travelers, corporate executives, social elite and

BREAKTHROUGH ALOE CURE SOLVES DIGESTION NIGHTMARES

Finally, a natural anti-acid that delivers instant relief to people who suffer from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, gas, bloating, diarrhea, and other stomach nightmares.

"Sometimes you'll give something just to make it stop," says Dr. Santiago Rodriguez, a world renowned medical scientist.

FINALLY THERE'S HOPE

At first, the thought of drinking Aloe Vera might make some people back away. Here's how it works.

STOMACH ACHY

Your stomach naturally produces acid to strong, it can dissolve an aluminum spoon in just 30 minutes! And when excess acid escapes into your esophagus, throat and stomach lining, it

unleashes the searing pain of acid reflux, heartburn, ulcers and more misery. Add the problems of stress, and "all hell breaks loose."

Dr. Rodriguez explains... It hurts high and lowers with amazing speed. So your stomach feels completely at ease just moments after drinking it." In fact, it could very well stomach pain, discomfort, and the bodily ruin to the bath room.

INGESTION DEFENDER

Your first line of defense is calcium makes cinnamal it to patients. This natural acid buffer who suffer from heartburn, sensitivity, stomach burn, acid reflux, ulcers, and bodily illness as they don't unravel.

INSTANT SOOTHING RELIEF

Aloe Cure is brimming with polysaccharides, this "wonder" compound that gently coats the throat, esophagus and stomach, carrying instant relief to cells wrestled with excess acid.

WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING

Aloe Cure is backed by [illegible] Important scientific studies that confirm also relief stomach acid and ailments your body to heal itself. Dr. Lisa Ged, MD,

says, "That's why I recommend it to patients who suffer from heartburn, acid reflux, ulcers, and irritable bowel syndrome."

Dr. Santiago Rodriguez agrees: "Just two ounces of Aloe Cure reduces the acids in your stomach by ten times."

SRP P595/500ml bottle

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Pinoy wins gold in World Chef Societies

MIRO ASPIRAS, pastry chef at Resorts World Manila, won gold in Plated Desserts at the World Chef Societies in South Korea last week.

Aspiras, who specializes on fine-dining desserts at Impressions French restaurant by renowned French chef Cyrille Sannes, is a graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management-Culinary Arts at De La Salle College of St. Benilde, and an alumni of Gô Montessori Center. He was also a gold medalist at the 2011 HOPEX, and a member of the Pastry Alliance of the Philippines.

At the World Chefs Societies, his entries had the theme all-day desserts. "I ever think to going to be a restaurant that serves desserts, and only desserts for the whole day (for the hard dessert bars) this is my menu," said Aspiras.

MIRO Aspiras

Breakfast: Fruits and waffle (warm dessert)

Banana waffle, bake bonde soaked in ginger passion fruit syrup, glazed with toffee, caramelized figs, poached pear, oven-dried pear chips, compressed then grilled pear, then topped with cream cheese mousseline that is supposed to melt over the fruits and waffle.

The dessert displays not just one warm method of cooking but five, according to chef Gilles, it's a very unique concept and it's good that there are a lot of cooking methods involved. Looks delicious, too.

Lunch: Baked egg and almonds

Baked egg, caviar, edelweiss in the center of a smooth white chocolate almond mousse, complemented with caviar and pistachio chestnut by a creamy custard mousse anglaise.

"Inspired by my travel to the luxury caves desserts of Singapore."

Afternoon tea: Corn caramel and pecans

Corn panna cotta with salted caramel mousse, accompanied by flavors of roasted pecans in the form of layered cake (vanilla chocolate maple pancake plus madeleine butter sponge and pecan crunch bar) and mixes of caramel (caramel sauce, caramel rice cake) pecan sponge.

"According to judges, this

Marinated Norwegian diver scallops, Iberian pork collar . . .

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hospitality professionals.

Smorgasbord

The center of the dining area held the wealth of country in a wooden consider. Natural light, streaming overhead through the solar panel, and an ethereal background music helped to relax. Brewer Hemming himself, chef Bertel Brunchet, Beneath the floor arrangements was a variety of vegetables, fish and shellfish in different preparations.

There was freshly shucked oysters on ice with Mignonette, lobster and avocado salad, sardines and multi-hued style, and Norwegian salmon prepared in several ways as low temperature slow-cooked with caviar; caviar fraiche and a mustard and cured meats, a seafood style croquettes and in ravioli combined with prawns, mango and lemon.

It was the marinated Brunei gun diver scallops with cocoa-dew, lime zest-rich and cooked adjacent that baked the game plan to more selected dishes on. Its nice fresh, plump meat served in its open shell, like a gleaming jewel difficult to resist. There were no regrets after preparing a couple more into the mouth, displacing other dreams the option in the limited space of a demanding abdomen.

Employed in this section be side small dishes with tasting portions was a whole cooked king crab still intact. It was surprising to see that the crab was even bigger than it already seemed on television shows.

KING crab at World Gourmet Summit

LIFESTYLEASIA'S Cheryll Tio, Capella's Eric Stolls, , Lifestyle Asia editor-in-chief Anna Sotiropoulos, A La Carte Productions principal Peter Beipp, Capella general manager Robert Lagerberg

Smoked and tender portions were easily carved out and consumed slowly to linger over the pleasure of flavorful goodness.

Brainchild stalled around offering pan-seared dishes of Norwegian White Halibut and Bo Strand "Baker" and Confit of Norwegian Mackerel with Candied Sun-Dried Tomato and Lobster Essence.

Starstruck

The food adventure came to an unexpected abbreviation while we were queueing at Tawa delicacy of tiger star steak grill, lamb chop, lamb sauce and lamb liver onto a plate. Steve Vonk-based Ulkan Khanna was standing by the kitchen counter of executive chef Manjunath Swamy of The Soup of Indie. The specialty restaurant was having the one-Michelin-starred chef, restaurateur, food writer, Columnist, businessman and host of the television show "MasterChef India." The Indian Leading founder of Cooking for Life previously obliged a photo.

Two days later, it would be lunch of the food establishment serving his menu, but by that moment it was sufficient to meet Vicky Sidhi's Business Chief," who gave his spot to guests. The man, considered the highest representative of avant-garde cuisine in whole of the Grand Continental.

Unfortunately, it was Ananda Krishna who was suddenly a free hour away. Moreover's celebrity

SCALLOPS

TORONTO-BASED chef Susur Lee, Subrapuna, Michal Sarran, Tao Chef Rue Lin of My Humble House

Asian cuisine chef serves some of the most demanding and sophisticated clientele in the capital who patronize his high-end restaurants. Iconic skills, possibly the most celebrated chef today, publicly pronounced in the book "Great" that Gunna is among the world's 100 best contemporary chefs.

Philippine presence

It was back to the tables after a brief exchange with gallied food that elevated barbecues to superstar status. There was smoky, slow-cost sight, apple smoked marinated Iberian pork collar, Guinness-marinated sirloin cooked rustic, and Norwegian salmon and prawn with seafood in banana leaf.

The stage was occupied by the pasta station, supervised by Capella's executive chef Jakob Eder, a Swedish national. His collaborators with two Michelin-starred chef Dani Garcia of Malaga and Sorrento Southland the Citibank gastronomic jazz session.

Citibank is the presenting partner of the lifestyle event produced by A La Carte Productions, a subsidiary of Peter Beipp Holdings Pte Ltd. and supported by the Singapore Tourism Board. The festival, which began on April 27 ended on May 7 with a black-tie dinner at the Istrie Grand Copitre, Indoor d'Or cluster featuring Thom Dumay Masters of the Grand Continental.

Lifestyle Asia is the exclusive Philippine publication partner, a distinction for the country organized the organizers.

Caramelized Pineapple Rings

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

CARAMELIZED Pineapple Rings

FRESH PINEAPPLES are a good source of Vitamin C, but sometimes they're sour or too acidic to be pleasant to eat. Here's a way to make them more delectable. Caramelize them with sugar. Caramelizing the pineapples can turn this simple fruit into a great dessert. It tames the acidity of the pineapples and makes them tenderer and more likeable.

On the other hand, the pineapples shouldn't be too overripe or they will soften. To preserve this, I recipe, I refer you to the lesson sugar before sprinkling it on the pineapple. The result is a sweet flavor with just a hint of saltiness. The

D.I.Y.

Norma Chikiamco

combination of sweet and salty flavors has, after all, been one of the latest trends in the food industry (does the chocolate-covered potato chips, salted caramels, etc.)

These caramelized pineapples are great to make for summer picnics, being both refreshing as well as nourishing. Just be sure to pack them well in airtight containers. Or, you can prepare the pineapples, Dulce and the sugar—without sprinkle before leaving for the picnic—and just grill the pineapples on the picnic site (if you're taking a barbecue grill with you). You can also serve this with vanilla ice cream.

Caramelized Pineapple Rings

1 medium pineapple
¼ cup brown sugar
1 tsp salt
¼ cup butter

Peel the pineapple and remove all the "eyes." Slice the pineapple into circles about ½-inch thick. If necessary, remove the core of each pineapple circle to pineapple circles become "rings."

Combine sugar and salt in a bowl. Heat half of the butter in a grill pan or skillet until melted. Dredge the rings of the pineapple rings with the sugar-salt combination. Grill or heat around four of the pineapple rings in the skillet until pineapples start to get tender and the sugar starts to caramelize. Turn pineapples over and continue cooking. Beat until fully tender and caramelized. Transfer to a clean plate. Repeat with remaining butter and pineapples.

Cook's tips

- Cook the pineapples only until tender but not soggy.
- You can serve this warm.
- If desired, slice the pineapple rings into chunks before serving.

CHEF Carlo Miguel of Slow Cuisine Veronica, Daphne Chris Pico and InQuisitive columnist Ingrid Go. Serious Favourite; coffee artist Serafina Pura; beyond columnist Kelly Hiu

Premium instant coffee—made from 'smart capsules'

By Irene C. Perez

FOR A COFFEE person, a day is not complete without a cup or two of good brew. It signals a business morning, provides spit of energy at midday or lets one host a night-up after long day.

The Nescafé Dolce Gusto, a compact coffee machine, is a godsend to such people. The machine, around the size of a small coffee maker, comes in two sleek models that would fit any kitchen.

"Smart capsules" are used instead of traditional grounds in making coffee. These capsules contain premium Arabica ground and come in Caffè Lungo (classic bold), Cappuccino (frothy with milk), Vanilla Latte Macchiato (vanilla flavored creamy), Mocha (chocolate), and Chococino (chocolate flavor). A drink requires one or two capsules.

Pop-lock drop system

Making coffee is simple through the pop-lock drop system. Pop a capsule in the machine, lock the handle down (a small click marks the weight the capsule), choose red for hot coffee or blue for cold, and watch the coffee drop. Pretty easy, and it gives one the same coffee quality offered by a coffee shop in roughly a minute.

The machine utilizes a "15-bar system" which gives strong pressure similar to coffeehouse machines. This pressure forces the water into the capsule, and gives the coffee a frothy finish, with full body and flavor.

To manually stop the coffee flow, move the control lever back to the center and wait for the process button light to stop blinking. Then, lift the handle and dispose of the capsule.

Nescafé Dolce Gusto is available in two models, the smaller Piccolo (P5,999), which comes in red and white, and the new Circolo (P6,999), which comes in red and gray. The capsules are sold per variant in a 16-piece box (P400).

Appr. Cruz, Nescafé Dolce Gusto consumer marketing manager, said the machine is for those who enjoy having the

NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto Piccolo, available in red and white

CIRCOLO coffee machine comes in anthracite and cool grey colors. Coffee capsules are in Lungo, Cappuccino, Vanilla Latte Macchiato, Mocha and Chococino flavors.

NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto marketing team: Appr Cruz, Tyrin Bengzon, Kristen Hosaka, Tania Hoja and Stephanie Chan

HEAT can be paired with a cup of Cappuccino or, right, Spanish rice pudding and chocolate chip, with Chococino

toasted coffee at home. It is also a great way of quickly serving coffee to guests.

Coffee pairing

Dolce Gusto coffee flavors were recently paired with modern Spanish cuisine at Boca Dulce Morelia restaurant in Bonifacio High Street Central, Taguig.

Chef Carlo Miguel presented a special menu meant to complement the coffee flavors. For starters, we had foie Gras terrine with spinach and mushroom; croquettes filled with lemon, chicken and Manchego cheese; Bellota Grade and prawn fritters in hazy gloss. The only standout appetizer was served with the strong Lungo coffee.

For mains, Cappuccino was served with a meat plate consisting of thinly sliced chorizo on a bed of mini roast with chocolate spread, skewered chicken and beef pincho; lamb Ache pinxtos meatballs; tender pork belly with crispy skin, with a siding of prawns in Caffè Lungo. The sweetness of the Cappuccino balanced the savory entrée.

Dessert was only Spanish rice pudding with vanilla and almond slivers, and freshly fried churros with thick cheese that paired with Chococino. The hot cheese drink matched well with the slightly sweet pudding and crunchy churros.

Chef Miguel also suggested mixing subtle with strong coffee like Dolce Gusto Lungo at home.

Around Dolce Gusto is available at SM Markets, SM Malls of Asia, SM Megamall 4 and 8, SM North Edsa The Block, SM Pampanga, Trinoma Mall and online gadget.com.ph.

Pinoy wins gold in World Chef Societies

from page D1

plate is practical, elegant and playful."

Dinner: Black garlic—smooth and creamy texture of homemade 19-day fermented garlic

A Korean delicacy—a verrine composed of black sesame mousse, black garlic glee, grass jelly pearls, white sotton cheesecake, cumbersweet rehash loft (the judges impressed us), accompanied by chef Brendan Gil, "pushed the envelope with this technique"); puff pastry pillows, with cubes of strawberries and Pinto bean aioli.

"This was the judges' favorite; it is a simple and great concept, according to them."

"I didn't realize that the Expo was actually big until yesterday after my set-up," added Aspirin.

There were three major components: Exposition—consisting of booths of exhibitors and suppliers; competitions—the actual cooking contests; and seminars—the demonstrations and lectures.

The Philippine Culinary Exposition 2012 featured 200 booths of exhibitors and suppliers of food and beverage products, equipment and services. Among the exhibitors were Nestle Philippines, Inc., Monde Nissin Corporation, Universal Robina Corporation, Del Monte Philippines, Inc., Purefoods-Hormel Company, Inc., Magnolia, Inc., Pilmico Foods Corporation, Wilcon Depot, Inc., Kitchenware Philippines, Inc., Kitchen Center Philippines, Inc., Kitchen Essentials, Inc., Kitchen Kapamilya, Inc., Kitchen Supplies, Inc., Kitchen Warehouse, Inc., Kitchen Wonderland, Inc., Kitchen Xpress, Inc., Kitchen Zone, Inc., Kitchenmate Corporation, Kitchenware Corporation of the Philippines, Kitchenware Depot, Inc., Kitchenware Express, Inc., Kitchenware Gallery, Inc., Kitchenware Plaza, Inc., Kitchenware Shoppe, Inc., Kitchenware Specialists, Inc., Kitchenware Supplies, Inc., Kitchenware Warehouse, Inc., Kitchenware Wonderland, Inc., Kitchenware Xpress, Inc., Kitchenware

Small mall, big meals

SOLITO VERICIBRAND "small mall," is a new shopping complex in alabang that's buzzing with the opening of three eateries, among them Wooden Horse Steak House, which serves good beef, to another pair of eateries in Binondoon, to be exact, a cocktail bar is offered everyday at Somethin' Tasty, so we all you can restaurant.

Wooden Horse Steak House

G/F Unit 2 and 3 Molito Commercial Center, Madrigal Avenue corner Ayala-Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City, tel. 4107522

The board greeted by the entrance was the dining come-on. So one do, the diner, while not a steak-lovesd, walked in and was instantly led to a seat with view of the active complex. It's a diner seems a different ambiance when he or she occupies a good seat, close to the grill.

Dining area—Dour inch like a Western restaurant, where one could almost expect the Lone Ranger and his Tonto to barge in, swinging a lasso. The interior is done in rustic dark brown wood, and the chairs and tables are of sturdy material. Testing the hall are cowboy figures, an oak barrel, and a branch deer on a pair of wheels. Period photos are on exhibit.

Service—Every dish is served on a sizzling plate and cooked the moment an order is made; waiting time is only a few minutes.

Staff—Polite, unobtrusive, but always be dutiful; they come to over in a diner makes eye contact or utters a hand. They are garbed in black clothes or cowgirl outfits, complete with bandanas and boots.

Suggested orders—Needless to say go to the steaks. Some are dressed with sidings of stir-fried mashed potatoes, rice or bread, carrots and beans. For starters, get the Chicken Quesadillas and then choose your beef—Angus Ribeye, Tbone or Teriyaki Buccaneer. Less expensive but just as filling and flavorful is the hamburger selection, which includes the Pinoy with a slightly Japanese seasoning. Be careful about immediately digging into your meal, as it comes straight from the stove and could burn your tongue.

The menu offers a Kids' Menu of Little Cowboy Little Indian and Little Sheriff. Service charge and government taxes are added to the bill. Senior citizens are given due discounts.

Rating

Somethin' Fishy

Eastwood Walk, Quezon City

One day when we were looking for a restaurant that serves whole fishes' dishes one name came to mind. The term belongs to the chain that pioneered the sari-sari concept, no-leftovers concept of dining.

Dining area—Always full, as some early or make a reservation. You will walk into a huge hall with an impressive array of food. Tables are arranged so close to each other that it is quite difficult to move about.

Service—Reception is excellent and diners are immediately shown to a table.

Staff—Accommodating. While one is to server him or herself through the buffet spread, as a beautiful can be, is liked well added to get sound dish, like a break serving of fish or fairs (from the kitchen) to add those dishes.

Suggested choices—Go and start light as the Japanese station where sushi and sashimi are, together with many others. While through the buffet spread, get a feel of how the each as you get it (fresh) and choose more main courses. Iman, designer to fare-fare. Hale-hale is your best bet for dessert.

Service charge and government taxes are added to the bill. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

THE QUIET DINER

RESTOS AT A GLANCE

Wooden Horse Steak House	Poor
Somethin' Fishy	Good
	Excellent

RATING INDEX

Mother's Day promos

Casa Roces' mom's day menus

Casa Roces restaurant offers the "Te Quiero Mama" group menu specials May 11-13. For P2,499 (plus tax), a group of five including Mom can enjoy cream of salmon mini soup, fresh corned beef, steamed fish and rice, congee and fresh fruit platter. Mother's Day Menu #1 includes roasted tomato soup, beef steak, sizzling mixed vegetables, mango mixed fruit and platter. Casa Roces is at 1150 J.P. Laurel cor. Aguado Streets in San Miguel, Manila. Call 7336888 or 7384020, visit www.casaroces.com.

Richmonde Hotels buffet

Richmonde Hotel Ortigas' Tea Mother's Day Celebration Room Package starts at P6,200 and is on May 12-13. Richmonde Cafe will host a special lunch buffet prepared by executive chef Jason Cruz. There will be pasta and mexican cooking stations, grilling station for fresh seafood and seafood. The buffet is available 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. It comes with buffet dinner and tea, entertainment, and photo booth souvenir, at P1,200 per head. Moms also get discounts at Head Cove Salon, Richmonde Hotel Ortigas is at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 6387117 or 6388418, visit www.richmondehotel.com. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is also offering our May 13 buffet spread of international cuisine priced at P1,000 net per person. The Mother's Day Celebration room package starts at P7,800 net, available from May 12-13. Call 5709111, visit www.richmondehotel.com. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is at 7 Orchard Road, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

Acacia Hotel buffet

Feast on a special Mother's Day buffet spread at Acacia Hotel on May 13. Every group of five diners receive a rose to give to the one with the most number of two mothers are given. Kids under three feet and under of age may eat on overnight stay for room. A photo booth will be set up, too. The buffet is priced at P1,450 net per person with refillable drinks. The 2 hr.-30 minute-period plays on May 11, 2, 3 p.m., at the ballroom. Tickets are at P700 net per person. Special room package for Mom for a Deluxe room starts at P5,999 net with buffet breakfast for two, concert tickets, lunch or dinner buffet, or a relaxing massage for two. 20 percent discount from Hardside Clothing. For more reservations, call 7220000 or 8888888, e-mail enquiry@acaciahotelmanila.com. Visit Acacia Hotel Manila on Facebook and follow on Twitter at @acaciahotels.

Practical gifts for moms

Exquisite hand-wood bags and accessories are designed to safeguard women's most precious valuables, they would be moms, so in the season to Dispatch and Singapore women's bags, all equipped with smart form and lock hook features. Available in Rockers, SM and Robinsons Daily Finds. The Travel Club 7455, BGC Pacific Intercontinental, Shell Pasnak Philippines on Facebook.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerie G. Velarde

PH cinema in NY Times

A NEW YORK TIMES article by Floyd Whaley took note of "new ambitions" in Philippine cinema. It remarked that the indie movie "Kamkabogs 1: Simula sa Hukot a Remington" was a "surprising success." "Studios were put on notice," it also reported that the producers of "The Road," which premiered in the US yesterday, hope that "they can bridge the gap between Filipino and American audiences." Reynard Sam Briggs Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

A charming Ricky Martin as Che Guevara

Levi Salonga

MARTIN snaps Che with a wry grin and a twinkle in his eye. He carries himself with abundant charm and stage presence.

THURSDAY last week I headed to the Marquis Theatre on Broadway to see the Tony-nominated revival production of "Evita." I was with one of the producers, Salome Bhatia, who I previously met when he was working on the Broadway production of "Billy Elliot." He had so graciously asked me to come see his newest show, and I said yes.

I was excited for three good reasons. First, it was one of the first musicals I ever saw in London's West End. I was only 10; it was life-changing. I wanted to be that girl on center stage swathed in gossamer fabric and dripping in diamonds. I kind of got my wish, except that I wore a Vietnamese native dress and was housed in a different theater.

Second, I would be seeing Ricky Martin as Che Guevara onstage. It had been so long since I last watched him sing—in a Manila concert that was part of a promotional trip.

Third, I had another friend in the show, Elan van Ensen. We were both in the cast of "Les Miserables" (I played Eponine, he portrayed Enjolras), and traveled together in another Broadway show, "Thoroughly Modern Millie." We had gone in for the same season. We knew it would be fun.

2006 hit

This "Evita" was the same production that took the West End by storm in 2006, directed by Michael Grandage and choreographed by Rob Ashford. It won an Olivier Award for its star, Elena Roger, who reprises the role of Eva Peron here, making her Broadway debut.

The sets were really beautiful, very different from the West End set that I saw. The choreography, much of which remained different takes on the Argentine tango, was wonderful. (I particularly loved "The Art of the Possible" and "Dangerous Game" numbers.)

As for the performances, I purposely ignored all the reviews in the papers so I could enjoy the show.

Ricky was charming! He caressed Che with a sexy grin and a twinkle in his eye—a very different portrayal from the original production (where Che seemed to have been based on the real-life Guevara).

Abundant charm

Ricky's Che is an everyman, making observations and commentary on the goings-on dominated by the elites. He weaves in and out of the action, and carries himself with abundant charm and stage presence.

I first saw Elena Roger in London (ten years ago as Peron in the Donmar Warehouse production of Stephen Sondheim's "Passion," I fell in love with her portrayal, so I waited with much anticipation for her to play Evita.

She did not disappoint. Although her singing voice is very different from Elaine Paige's and Patti Lupone's (the original West End and Broadway Evitas, respectively), Elena infused her role with authentic fire. (Eleva is Argentine herself). Her acting, particularly in the final scenes, was breathtaking to watch. It was most certainly an auspicious Broadway debut.

Michael Cerveris as Juan Peron has been nominated at the 2012 Tony Awards for his performances, and it's easy to see why. Although he portrays Peron as a tough political and military figure, it's fun watching his wife suffer and eventually die from ovarian cancer (that's next moving.

A CHRONICLE

HEARD

NEW YORK—Madonna says Beastie Boy Adam Yauch, who died Friday, was one of a kind and that the group was important to her personal history. The Beastie Boys opened for Madonna on tour in the 1980s. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last month. AP

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GALLERIA

1. RESERVED
2. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
3. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
4. THE CURSE OF THE ANGELS
5. DARK SHADOWS
6. THE AVENGERS
7. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
8. THE AVENGERS
9. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
10. 21 JUMP STREET

MANILA

1. THE AVENGERS
2. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
3. THE AVENGERS
4. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
5. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
6. 21 JUMP STREET
7. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE

METRO EAST

1. DARK SHADOWS
2. THE AVENGERS
3. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
4. THE AVENGERS
5. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
6. 21 JUMP STREET
7. DARK SHADOWS
8. THE DESCENDANTS

NOVALICHES

1. THE CURSE OF THE ANGELS
2. DARK SHADOWS
3. THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY / THE AVENGERS
4. 21 JUMP STREET
5. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE

FORUM ROBINSONS

1. THE AVENGERS
2. DARK SHADOWS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. THE MONUMENT RETURNS

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NOW SHOWING!

STA ROSA

1. THE AVENGERS
2. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
3. THE LIGHT CAME
4. THE AVENGERS
5. DARK SHADOWS

LIPA

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
2. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
3. THE AVENGERS
4. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
5. RESERVED

DASMARIÑAS

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
2. THE AVENGERS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
5. THE MONUMENT RETURNS

STARMILLS

1. THE AVENGERS
2. THE AVENGERS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
5. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
6. DARK SHADOWS

IMUS

1. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
2. THE AVENGERS
3. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
4. THE AVENGERS
5. 21 JUMP STREET
6. DARK SHADOWS

TACLOBAN

1. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
2. THE CURSE OF THE
3. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
4. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
5. THE AVENGERS

ILOCOS NORTE

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
2. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE / THE AVENGERS
3. THE MONUMENT RETURNS

DUMAGUETE

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
2. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
3. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE / THE AVENGERS

BACOLOD

1. THE AVENGERS
2. THE AVENGERS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. DARK SHADOWS
5. RESERVED
6. THE MONUMENT RETURNS

ILOILO

1. THE AVENGERS
2. THE AVENGERS
3. 21 JUMP STREET
4. DARK SHADOWS
5. LOVE FOR THE ARMY
6. THE MONUMENT RETURNS

GENSAN

1. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
2. THE AVENGERS
3. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
4. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE

ANGELES

1. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
2. THE AVENGERS
3. DARK SHADOWS
4. 21 JUMP STREET

CALASIAO

1. THE MONUMENT RETURNS
2. AVENGERS: ASSEMBLE
3. DARK SHADOWS in Digital 2D
4. THE AVENGERS

Young stars send out mixed signals

IN OTHER countries, career development in showbiz is clear and methodical, a purposeful output from one concern enhancing panels to another, culminating in young stars (usually established characters as long-term players in the lucrative entertainment field). Here? Not as much.

Local starlets' careers go from one "killer" to another, willy-nilly, sometimes passing all sorted performance modes, as long as there's money to be made. Between jobs, they just wait for the next offer, instead of working with their handlers to generate a coordinated image theme that will make it easier for producers to think of securing their services for their next projects, whenever the right role for them comes along.

And when the scattershot offers stop coming, the starlet's career with it.

This is what happens when young stars and starlets send out mixed signals—a downtime phenomenon that's been happening more often in local showbiz, as talent discoverers, executives, not-so-creative and painstaking career developments for their wards, lag pumbles that pass for "deep and kill" TV portrayals in these parts.

Indie actors are famous for being able to create characters very different from themselves, but Gen-next plays more variations on his persona. And, talk about lack of believability on his current series, "Walang Kapantay," he can't make his character's shift from functional to sophisticated with any believable conviction. Credible, he's given a radical change of wardrobe, but that's about it.

For his part, "Hayley" star Gerald Anderson's mixed signals involve his physical appearances. He appears to have bulked up a lot, which makes it difficult for us to see him in sensitive dramatic roles. Is he planning to go the action route instead? If so, what was all the dramatic outrage he gained from "Bunday," for?

Kim Kim is experiencing his own lack of career focus. "My Binondo Girl" made him popular, but once he's been playing the "popular" and "no-work, and is coming off as awkward and TA, instead of natural and emotionally assessible. And his recent stint in beauty pageant host came out from left field, unfocusing his image even more. What gives?

One young stars really have to manage their careers with greater clarity, logic and persistence. If they themselves aren't sure about their main "selling points" as performers, how can they expect viewers to focus on and relate to them, as they move productively and resoundingly should?

Chard not averse to possible TV5-GMA 7 merger

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

BROADCASTING czar, one of GMA 7's top male stars, isn't averse to the possible merger of the Kapatid and Kapamilya networks.

If here, a talk that TVS's Manny V. Pangilinan is interested in buying GMA 7.)

"If it would lead to the two networks working together ... if it would be for the good of the industry, then I am all for it," he told Inquirer.net in a one-on-one during the launch of his Gutz & Glory Den Collagen line for beards.

"It's good news for him because it could allow him to work with his sister Bella Gutierrez, a TV5 contract star.

Chard, as he is known in the biz, said it might lead to more documentary specials and shows on the environment as well. (GMA News and Public Affairs was able to exhibit such fat passion for the cause with a string of specials.)

The actor was interested working up in the muck of dawn to join a fisherman in the open seas for his last show, "Gun/Ita," on GMA 7.

During that single boat ride near Subic, Zillan, he was exposed not just to the elements, but also to disturbing realities. He saw first-hand the harsh life of fisher folk and the alarming state of our diminishing marine resources. "After two and a half hours, the fisherman caught only four [fishes]," he said.

New show

This month, he embarks on another exploration with his seven-episode sports program, "Pinoy Adventurer" (Sundays, prime time, starting May 13).

"The show allows me and the viewers to explore places most PH [place haven't seen," he said. On top of his list of must-visit spots are Sulawesi, Aklan, Bambloc, Bohol, Siargao and Sagada.

His dream episode for the show is to climb the country's highest peaks—Mt. Pulag, Apo, Cloning-Dodiong among others. "It's something I haven't done before. In past show specials, I were diving and snorkeling. I would need special technical training for mountain climbing. It's a new adventure, a new challenge."

In the show, so far, he has gone mountain biking and rappelling near the waterfalls in Sibuyan Island in Romblon, and spelunking in Limasawa, Palawan.

He took a trip last July on Alburquerque, a place he would like to revisit soon. "It is a good example because it was clean, energy. With its numerous waterfalls, it was able to harness hydroelectric power," he related.

Chard has competed in triathlons as well. He has joined marathons here (Cebu) and abroad (Guam) and plans to join the international Iron Man race (also in Cebu) in August.

Mom's town

"It's important for me to run in Cebu, my mom's home province," he said. "It's exciting because all my relatives will be there to cheer me on."

He trains "almost every day," he reported. Whenever he's busy with TV happings, he makes it a point to bring his bike to the set. "I go biking before my takes."

Speaking of new adventures, he has started work on the upcoming prime-time series, "Makagat Ang Kung Mahi," where he is paired with leading ladies Carla Abellana and Sarah Lahbati for the first time.

He has yet to act opposite Alanis, but he has signed a five-movie with Cinfo at production.

Carla is a joy to work with, she's a pro. The mood on the set is always light and easy."

Chard took a hands-on approach to his new career as leading performer, too. He said he collaborated closely with the fetish team to come up with the new costumes of his new onlogue.

"One for night and another for day. One is light (daytime) and the other is smoky (night-time)—like me in real life," he said. "I wear fresh scents to the morning, stronger colognes to the evening."

2ND WEEK
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THE DIRECTOR OF "THE AVENGERS"
AND CHRIS HEMSWORTH
THE STAR OF "THOR"
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS

A charming Ricky Martin

Front page E1

His version of "You Must Love Me," although brief, has a slight despondent of a man knowing love has to will soon become, without his wife.

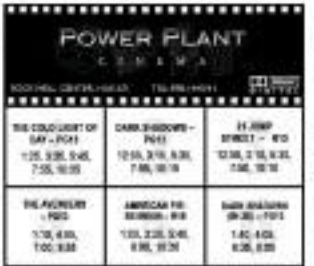
After the show we headed backstage to meet and greet the star. I first met Elena, and I pushed over her predicament. I then headed to Ricky's room (my purpose was to retrieve my purse which I thought was in there), he stopped me from leaving like a headless chicken, asked to say hello, and gave me a hugs hugs.

Once there, I found Michael and guided out over his "Evening" the first show of his that I saw. Mat, whose normally upbeat and bubbly self was covered by my single yelp; and Ricky's longtime assistant Jose Vega, who was the blender to those capsulizes and wardrobe stylist back to the day.

The thing that struck me most on this night was the moment when Ricky and I looked at one another. We are both stars in our 40s, we have children of our own, and we found ourselves looking back on early adolescence when he was a member of the boy band Menudo, and I was in opening act.

I am a man now fulfilled and happy with his life, a man who glowed more that the words that emanated his light had finally come down. I saw a man who is positively happy. I don't think anyone could've wished for anything better for this man who is deserving of all the good this universe has to offer.

It was a magical "night of a thousand stars"... and this one shone brighter than all the others.



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HOME

ENTERTAINMENT

Hula-Hoop artist is 'Ultimate Talentado'

PAGGNAM teen Ryan Agoncillo

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor
Photos by Arnold Almacen

HULA-HOOP artist and fire dancer Daniel "Rainbow" Darwin first captivated an audience at a birthday party. Last Sunday at the Quezon Memorial Circle, he found himself in front of thousands of cheering fans, having been declared grand winner of "Talentadong Pinoy's" third season.

The 24-year-old Filipino-American was in "absolute disbelief" when host Ryan Agoncillo called out his name and handed him the trophy. Darwin said he intended to stay for just a few months in the Philippines after finishing college in New York University last year.

Enthralling

"I did not expect this at all," he giddily told reporters after the show. "Last night [performance night], I was so scared, nervous and anxious. I just told myself, 'You gave your best performance. It is now up to God.'"

Asked if he thought he won because audience interest in singing and dancing acts had waned, Darwin said, "I think people still never get tired of singing and dancing [routines]. But I also think that what I brought was something new."

In the performance show dubbed "Battle of the Champions," Antonboy received nods for showcasing an enthralling mixture of Hula-Hoop tricks, fire dancing and a mesmerizing of acrobatic stunts.

Despite a minor slip up at the start of his act, the visual impact and sheer difficulty of the rest of routine was more than enough to win. He joined, "I think what appealed to people was how joyful it made me feel ... and also that I was on fire!"

Antonboy bested seven other finalists — guests before Jurgen Przewieslik, Eurodisco singer Mellrellan Cabeng; R&B singer Rhyzza Raffin; ballroom-dancing siblings Craig and Bernardin Abaya-Gaspay; children's dance group Dancing is Fun; soul artist Monica Hegabertz; and pole dancer Johnny "Sweetsixteen" Villanueva.

"I'm a perfectionist by nature and I get depressed when I mess up. But [on performance] night, I didn't feel that way because I pulled off the hardest tricks I had ever known," said Antonboy, who brought his very first hoop four years ago after watching a Fire juggle in the US.

The result was determined by 50 percent nationwide text votes and 50 percent judges' vote. "Talentadong Pinoy" Tuesday Vargas, Jed Madela, Joey Reyes, Dawn Lagasp, Stella Quidaway, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Audie Gemora, Joey de Leon and Kuh Ledesma comprised the performance night panel.

Car and cash

This crowned "Ultimate Talentado," Antonboy received a check for P1 million, keys to a brand new car and a four-year course scholarship to ADM-Computer University. He will represent the country in the World Championships of Performing Arts this year in Los Angeles, California.

"That's crazy! I have a lot of preparing to do. I went my next

HULA-HOOP • P4

DARWIN "Rainbow" Darwin shows off giant check for P1 million. He also won a car and a computer university scholarship.

A-LIST GUESTS: Superstar Nora Aunor and Megastar Sharon Cuneta

AIMEE Ignacio plays the piano. Fantasy

GARFIELD

A. UPPH

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DICK TRACY

LOVEHKOTS

BABY BLUES

RIKO MACHINE

SEN

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DARTH

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			8			3	2	
5								6
	6	4			1			
	7		2				9	
		2	9			7	8	
9				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SKY customizes cable TV service

CLICK!

SKY has unveiled-on a cable TV service enhancement endeavor that it calls "customization."

Ray Montilla, chief operating officer, says the company now allows subscribers to customize packages according to their personal preference.

SKYcable Select is an option to enhance channel lineup for as low as P50 per additional channel per month.

Montilla adds: "Subscribers no longer ask if the signal is clear because, for them, that should be a given. So we know we should give them something beyond clear signal."

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And with SKYcable Boxed, the viewer can pause, record and play back a live TV program. It is the only service of its kind in the country, says Montilla.

'Pawn Stars' contest

If you think you have what it takes to haggle for a good bargain or selling rare, junk History's "Pawn Star of the Week" regional contest.

Among the prizes—all collector's items— are a Diana mini-camera, a "Pawn Stars" stool and a retro Coca-Cola cooler.

Every week, History will post the picture of an item on facebook.com/HistoryAsiaTV. Fans can guess the item's pawn or sale value; the correct or closest estimate wins.

The contest runs for six weeks, concluding in time for the June 13 premiere of "Pawn Stars" season 6. The network's highest-rated show, the reality series chronicles the daily activities at World Famous Gold & Silver Brokers(sic) in Vegas.

"Pawn Stars"

"Mission Menu"

History is available on SKYcable Ch. 25, Cable Link Ch. 44, Destan Satellite Ch. 30 and Destiny Cable Ch. 57.

'Mission Menu'

TLC's new series, "Mission Menu," followed three international-executive chefs as they employ their unique culinary skills to overhaul existing restaurant businesses and sometimes launch new ones. The show premieres 10 p.m. on Monday starting May 14, reruns on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

'Giuliana and Bill'

Celebrity couple Giuliana and Bill Rancic face the toughest times of their lives in season 5 of "Giuliana and Bill," which premieres on Wednesday, May 30, at 8 p.m. on E!

The new season puts the spotlight on Giuliana's difficulties caused by cancer. On the day she learned of her affliction, Giuliana says: "It's unfathomable. One day you're totally fine, living your dream, and life is wonderful. The next day your whole life changes forever."

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Cold Light of Day
10:45am - 12:15pm - 1:45pm
4:15pm - 6:45pm
The Avengers
9:15pm - 11:59pm

2 Dark Shadows
8:40pm - 11:10pm - 12:15pm
12:40pm

3 Dark Shadows in 2D
6:00pm - 11:10pm

4 21 Jump Street
9:00am - 11:20am - 1:40pm
4:20pm
The Avengers
7:00pm - 10:00pm - 12:40pm

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 The Avengers
PG-13 - Action/Sci-fi

2 Dark Shadows
PG-13 - Comedy/Fantasy

3 21 Jump Street
R-13 - Action/Crime

4 Mommy Returns
PG-13 - Comedy

5 Cold Light of Day
PG-13 - Action/Thriller

6 The Avengers in 3D
PG-13 - Action/Sci-fi

7 Dark Shadows
PG-13 - Comedy/Fantasy

GREENBELT CINEMAS

1 Mommy Returns
10:00am - 12:20pm - 2:40pm
5:00pm - 7:20pm - 9:40pm

2 The Avengers in 3D
10:40am - 1:00pm - 4:00pm
7:00pm - 9:40pm

3 Dark Shadows in 2D
9:50am - 12:00pm - 2:10pm
5:00pm - 7:20pm - 9:30pm

4 Cold Light of Day
11:20am - 1:50pm - 4:00pm
6:20pm - 8:50pm

PIAZZA

A Mother's Day Concert
featuring
Zia Dia Padilla and Zia Lee
May 13, 2012 - 7:00pm

Ayala Malls Cinemas

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: THE AVENGERS
4: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: DARK SHADOWS
7: MOMMY RETURNS

GREENBELT 3

1: MOMMY RETURNS
2: DARK SHADOWS
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS
5: COLD LIGHT OF DAY

GREENBELT 5

1: DARK SHADOWS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
4: 21 JUMPSTREET
5: COLD LIGHT OF DAY

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: THE AVENGERS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
5: 21 JUMPSTREET

ALABANG TOWN CENTER 3

1: THE AVENGERS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: MOMMY RETURNS

MARQUEE

1: THE AVENGERS
2: DARK SHADOWS
3: MOMMY RETURNS
4: 21 JUMPSTREET

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: THE AVENGERS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: MOMMY RETURNS
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
7: DARK SHADOWS

MARQUEE

1: DARK SHADOWS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: MOMMY RETURNS
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS
6: 21 JUMPSTREET
7: THE AVENGERS

MARKET MARKET

1: DARK SHADOWS
2: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
3: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: MOMMY RETURNS
7: THE AVENGERS

TRINOMA

1: MOMMY RETURNS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: AMERICAN PIE: THE REUNION
7: DARK SHADOWS

ABREEZA

1: DARK SHADOWS
2: COLD LIGHT OF DAY
3: MOMMY RETURNS
4: THE AVENGERS

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MARKET MARKET
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
TRINOMA
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
ABREEZA
SOUTHMALL

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Glorietta | Greenbelt | Town | Ayala Malls 30th | Marquee | Trinoma | Tri-Noma | MARQUEE | Abreeza

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Hula-Hoop artist wins...

From page A1

performance to be even more of a breakthrough, so I'm going to start working on it right away," he said.

The losing contenders also got scholarships on top of the cash prizes they accumulated throughout the all...

Multitalented

A graduate of Theater Arts and Creative Writing, Aerolney aspires to become a Broadway actor. The multitalented performer who is into writing essays, plays and directing, said he hopes to join shows such as "Forum Brats," which have theater and other performance arts.

Aerolney recently applied for Filipino citizenship to explore his opportunities in local show biz. He also plans to conduct acting Hula-Hoop workshops.

"I love the things that are happening in the indie and theater scene here. I saw Rivermaya there in [winning UP's "Tres Andreanum] and he was incredible," he said. "My background is theater and I would really love to participate in plays here."

TRIO OF BEAUTIES (from left) Judy Ann Santos, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Rufa Gutierrez

ARMEL Pineda

Added fun

The non-resident finals performance night featured guest performances from Journey lead singer Arnel Pineda and Sharon Cuneta. Per added fun, Wendy Valdez, Ruby Ruiz, Gerald Ignacio and Ramon Rivera partnered with past "Talentadas" contestants, and faced off in a celebrity competition.

Ansell took home the P100,000 cash prize after wowing the celebrity competition panel—which included a sax-toting lady host Sarina—with his impressive piano playing. He played his own arrangement of "Bore" by Rihyanntha, an remix | Rondee Leah

RESIDENT judges Rosanna Vargas and Audie Gemora

WENDY Valdez

Patrick sang the vocal parts.

"Serving emotional with the win, Ansell said, "Gigi no long ulong nakakakaba as a winner. I'm happy I was given the chance show my other talents."

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB
OPENS MAY 17
CAMERON DIAZ JENNIFER LOPEZ
"How you are a while. It's pretty tshirt crowd..."
"I'm visiting Hungover Mafia."
"If I knew I'd have a rock like this, I would've gotten knocked up years ago."
"I just have all this extra energy. Plus I'm feeling super-hot."
"I can't wait to meet my baby."
"Making a human being in mother's body..."
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WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

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CLARA Sorio

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for publication
Sunday to Friday

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013 G1

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS
1564 Muntinlupa City

BUCOR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-2013

TO : ALL CONCERNED
DATE : 04 May 2013
SUBJECT : BUCOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

I. GENERAL

II. OBJECTIVES

III. SCOPE. This policy shall apply to all officials and employees of the Bureau of Corrections.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS (Annex "B")

V. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY PROGRAM

VI. Provisions of the DWC

VII. Procedure for Random Test (Annex "C")

VIII. Procedure for Confirmatory Test (Annex "D")

IX. Liability of Officials and Employees

ANNEX "A" (REFERENCES) TO THE BUCOR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-2013 dated 04 May 2013

REFERENCES

ANNEX "B" (DEFINITION OF TERMS) TO BUCOR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-2013 dated 04 May 2013

ANNEX "C" (PROCEDURE FOR RANDOM TEST) TO BUCOR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-2013 dated 04 May 2013

PROCEDURE FOR CONFIRMATORY TEST

ANNEX "D" (DISTRICT BUDGET OF DBM) TO BUCOR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01-2013 dated 04 May 2013

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT TITLE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
	GRAND TOTAL		

Republic of the Philippines
Philippine Veterans Affairs Office
Department of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Invitation to Bid
Repair & Rehabilitation of WAREHOUSE OB
PVAO BID-INFRA-12-05-10

1. The Administrator, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php8,600,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair & Rehabilitation of WAREHOUSE OB or Contract No. BFO-CONSTRUCTION. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Administrator, PVAO now invites bids for the construction of new works for the construction of three (3) storey building at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in accordance with the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
   Minimum Equipment Requirements:
   - Only 5 units Concrete Mixer are required
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
   Interested bidders may obtain further information from PVAO and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders at the office address indicated below from May 10, 2012 to May 23, 2012 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 1,500.00). Submission of bid will be on May 23, 2012 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM (submit to BAC Secretariat) at the Office of the Chairman, PVAO, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bid opening shall be on May 23, 2012 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM at the same address.
6. All the bid documents will be held on May 9, 2012 1:00 PM at the Bid Secretariat BAC Office, Office of the Chairman, PVAO, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 09 May 2012, 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on 09 May 2012, 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Chairman, PVAO, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
9. The PVAO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please refer to:

Chairman, BAC
Philippine Veterans Affairs Office
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax: 911-6001

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IV-A CALABARZON
DIVISION OF MURCIA CENTRAL

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Fifty-Nine Million One Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Nine Pesos (P15,059,162,559.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Various Supplies and Materials for the School Year 2012-2013. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

Item No.	Item Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Completion Time
1	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) (10 Units) at San Luis Elementary School (Main) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
2	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Main) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
3	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
4	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
5	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
6	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
7	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
8	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
9	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
10	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.
11	Construction of One (1) Storey, Two (2) Classroom Building (Modified) at Bunlo Elementary School (Annex) (Murcia Central District) (Murcia Central District)	P[illegible],000,000.00	120 c.d.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Murcia Central and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 11 May 2012 to 24 May 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, Provided that Bidders who download the bidding documents shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DepED will have a Pre-Bid Conference on 21 May 2012, 2:00 p.m. at DepED Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila which shall be open to all interested bidders.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. at DepED Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. DepED will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall be rejected.

The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

DepED Murcia Central
Department of Health
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No.: 651-7800 (old 7800) loc. 6101, 6102
Facsimile No.: 741-0972, 740-6865

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF IMPLEMENTING TOOLS
(IB No. 2012-065)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of 2012 intends to apply the sum of Five Million and Two Philippine Pesos (Php5,002,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement for the Conduct of Operations, Repair under IB No. 2012-065. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The DOH now invites bids for the procurement of the above captioned package. Delivery of the Goods is required within thirty (30) calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the COMAC Secretariat, 5/F Bldg. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.
   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on 11 May to 23 May 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (P1,000.00).
   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, Provided that Bidders who download the bidding documents shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The DOH will have a Pre-Bid Conference on 21 May 2012, 2:00 p.m. at COMAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila which shall be open to all interested bidders.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
   Bid opening shall be on 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. at COMAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. DepED will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall be rejected.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

COMAC Secretariat
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No.: 651-7800 (old 7800) loc. 6101, 6102
Facsimile No.: 741-0972, 740-6865

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Regional Hospital Ilocos
Quirino Avenue, Vigan City

INVITATION TO BID

The Regional Hospital Ilocos, through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) intends to apply the sum of Four Million Pesos (Php4,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 11 May 2012 to 24 May 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, Provided that Bidders who download the bidding documents shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DOH will have a Pre-Bid Conference on 21 May 2012, 2:00 p.m. at BAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila which shall be open to all interested bidders.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 06 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. at BAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. DepED will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall be rejected.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

B

PHILIPPINE CANADIAN CENTER

INVITATION TO BID

Requirements	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract
	PHILIPPINE CANADIAN CENTER 2nd Floor, Unit 2, Cebu Grand Convention Center, Cebu IT Park, Cebu City	

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 007 Pedigree St.,
Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
FACTORY MERCHANDISING & DISTRIBUTION GROUP, INC. 2nd, 3/A, 3/F Sola Bldg., 111 Legaspi St. Valenzuela Village, Makati City	ABE, Ryoichi Masayasu (Japanese)	Executive Director
T.P. CHIN RESTAURANT, INC (T.P. CHIN'S BISTRO, CHEF TO GO, AND CHIN MINI BARBER) Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ninghui Li (China)	Chinese Chef
SUNG HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION 4th St., 4th Ave., Bldg. 133, Bonifacio Caloocan City	Chen, Liang Chiang (China)	Service Technical Consultant
PNTC, INC. 11th Floor, 1 The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ali Mazadi Bin Ismail (Tunisia)	Director Sales – Integration
TELE INTERMARKETING (PHILIPPINES), INC. 3F E-Commerce Bldg., Bonifacio Global Cybercity, Taguig City	Khandeep Singh (Australian)	General Manager
NTEL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 11/F Saloon Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Rajshree Singh (Indian)	Director of Account Management
SUNGTONG INTELS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 11/F Saloon Plaza, Makati Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yan Kwan Li Baron (Japanese)	Technical Advisor
PHILIPPINES BUILDERS CORPORATION No. 43 Central Ave., Brgy. Culiat, Quezon City	Hiranyaraj Rao (Indian)	Finance Manager
GLOBETECH CITY Lt 2/3 Victoria Plaza, Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Sajid Ahmed Syed (Indian)	Marketing Director
SUNCOL CHEMICAL PHILIPPINES CORP. No. 8 Interior St., Brgy. Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila	Kuo Ai Sen-wei (Japanese)	General Manager of Diesel Engine Division
KANSAI PAINT PHILIPPINES CORP. No. 8 Interior St., Brgy. Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila	Saigo Tetsuaki (Japanese)	Area General Manager
LA MARQUISE MUSIC, CORP. 4/F Philippine Inn., Leviste Piazzolla Bldg., 347 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Quezon City	Rajenddar Kaul (Indian)	Pre-Sales
WESTTAS TECHNOLOGY INC. 1/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Jiayi Wu (Taiwan)	Customer Service Coordinator
PHILIPPINES BUILDERS CORPORATION No. 43 Central Ave., Brgy. Culiat, Quezon City	Hiranyaraj Rao (Indian)	Finance Manager
WESTTAS TECHNOLOGY INC. 1/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Qiang Wu (China)	Customer Operation
GOLDEN BAY SEED NURSERY AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. Sunset Block A7, Lots 36-A thru 36-D, Pacayapay Subd., Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City	Mingjun Liu (China)	Chef
WESTTAS TECHNOLOGY INC. 1/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Haitao Xu (China)	Computer Operator
GOLDEN BAY SEED NURSERY AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. Sunset Block A1, Lots 36-A thru 36-D, Pacayapay Subd., Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City	Qiusheng Chen (China)	Assistant Chef
MOONTIME INC. 11/F Tytongkee 1, Ortigas St., Ugong, Pasig City	Manikaran Natwarlal Bhavsar (Indian)	Manager
BEE AREA, INC. 25/F 37 Tower, DMT, #323 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. Dela Costa St., Makati City	Ravikiran Hiremagal Prakash (Indian)	Mechanical Manager

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
WYVERN TECH INC. c/ LCDP - A Somville Corporate Tower, 1357 Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Yoshimoto Kim (Korean)	General Manager
WORLD WINNING ARM TRADING CORPORATION 4/F Ramosa Condominium, Municipal Ave., Northwest City	Mengjun Jia (Taiwan)	Consultant
INTERACTIVEPORTS ASIA CORPORATION, INC. 24/F North Star Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Buendia, Makati City	Graham Maurice Mansfield (British)	Fulltime Sports Analyst
WORLD WINNING ARM TRADING CORPORATION 4/F Ramosa Condominium, Municipal Ave., Northwest City	Mingming Wu (Taiwan)	Executive
INTERACTIVEPORTS ASIA CORPORATION, INC. 24/F North Star Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Buendia, Makati City	Alex Charles King (British)	Fulltime Sports Analyst
WYVERN TECH INC. c/ LCDP - A Somville Corporate Tower, 1357 Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Seongho Kim (Korean)	Technical Support
GLOBALSTEEL, INC. 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E. Bonifacio Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jung Kun Choi (Korean)	Customer Service Officer
WYVERN TECH INC. c/ LCDP - A Somville Corporate Tower, 1357 Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	Seongwon Choi (Korean)	Technical Support
RAFAL UNIVERSITY (CLINIC, INC. Ayala Makati, Glorietta-5, Ayala Center, Makati City	Lakhotia, Sanjeev Kumar (Australian)	Vice President for Professional Development
SPACE SOLUTIONS, INC. 6/F BDO Bldg., 2nd St. cor. 3rd Ave., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Ajeet Thapa Lakshman (Nepal)	Support Engineer
SUNCOL BUILDERS, INC. 43 Central Ave., Culiat 2, Quezon City	Jiang Ke Chun (Taiwan)	President
KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION G/F U.C.P. Corporate Plaza, 120 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Mohammad N.S.A. Al-Shaikhan (Kuwaiti)	Security Supervisor
KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION G/F U.C.P. Corporate Plaza, 120 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Qaisar M.N.S. Al-Shaikhan (Kuwaiti)	Cargo Supervisor
PAN PHILIPPINE LIFE INSURANCE INC. 6/F Liberty Plaza, 115 Tordesillas cor. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Yoshihiro Furukawa (Japanese)	Director / President & CEO
THE AREA PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON OF KINGS LIMOUT OF LETTER-OUT (NORTH) IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. No. 127 Tamplo Drive, Barangay Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Simeon Leonard Dalmeda (American)	Project Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application please communicate this with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN N. MACARAEG, CESO III
Regional Director

ERRATUM

In the ad material of Notice of Filing of Application for Alien Employment Permit/s (AEP/s) published on April 26, 2012 (Thursday), the position of Mr. David Andrew Blazure of SPI ONE, INC. should be Head Financial Officer and Treasurer, and the nationality of Mr. Alexander Christian Chiong of TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. should have been Irish & Canadian and not as published.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100
Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Diliman, Quezon City

Invitation to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1500 HEADS – DAIRY BUFFALO

50 EMBRYOS – BUFFALO EMBRYOS OF HIGH GENETICS

5000 DOSES – FROZEN SEMEN OF DAIRY BUFFALO

PHASE 1/3

1. The Department of Agriculture – Central Office and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) invite bids for the Supply and Delivery of 1500 Heads of Dairy Buffalo, 50 Embryos of Dairy Buffalo and 5000 Doses Frozen Semen of Dairy Buffalo (Phase 1/3) under the Modified Eighty One Billion Peso Countryside Savings Bond Financing (P80,081,000,000.00) Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as appropriated by the Government. The Supply and Delivery of the following:

1500 HEADS – DAIRY BUFFALO
50 EMBRYOS – BUFFALO EMBRYOS OF HIGH GENETICS
5000 DOSES – FROZEN SEMEN OF DAIRY BUFFALO

Delivery of the 1500 Heads of Dairy Buffalo and 5000 Doses of Frozen Semen of Dairy Buffalo shall be within Two Hundred Seventy (270) days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed from the Department of Agriculture – Central Office (DA-CO) and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) under the 1,500 Heads of Dairy Buffalo and 5000 Doses of Frozen Semen of Dairy Buffalo (Phase 1/3) Project.

2. The Department of Agriculture – Central Office (DA-CO) and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) now invite bids for the Supply and Delivery of the following:

50 EMBRYOS – BUFFALO EMBRYOS OF HIGH GENETICS
5000 DOSES – FROZEN SEMEN OF DAIRY BUFFALO

Delivery of the 50 Embryos of Buffalo and 5000 Doses of Frozen Semen of Buffalo shall be within Two Hundred Seventy (270) days after the 1,500 Heads of Dairy Buffalo and 5000 Doses of Frozen Semen of Dairy Buffalo (Phase 1/3) Project is completed and delivered, provided, however, that the contract period shall not exceed December 31, 2013. The Supply and Delivery of the above-mentioned items is subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Bidding Documents. The Bidding Documents may be purchased from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER (PCC) at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date(s)
Submission of Bids/ Opening of Bids	May 31 – June 1, 2012
Post-Qualification of Bids	
Notice of Award	
Contract Signing	
Delivery of Goods	June 1, 2012 (8:00 a.m.) – Two Hundred Seventy (270) days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed
Inspection and Acceptance of Goods	
Payment	June 1, 2012 (8:00 a.m.)

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on May 10 – May 30, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Philippine Carabao Center, provided that the bidder shall pay the corresponding fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Department of Agriculture – Office of the Secretary and Local Bids Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without incurring any liability, and make due inquiries to all bidders.

4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. on May 30, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

5. The Department of Agriculture – Office of the Secretary reserves the right to exercise an option to order additional quantities of the items listed in the Bid Form, within the limits specified in the Bidding Documents.

6. For further information, please refer to:

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Sgd.) ARTHUR SEVILLA GUERRERO
Acting Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

INVITATION TO BID

SPOT	Bidding for the Supply & Delivery of Instrument Transformers, Meter and Conductors (BIC-2012-008)
	Bidding for the Supply & Delivery of Reinforced and Rubber Boots (BIC-2012-009)
WHERE	May 16, 2012 (Pre-bidding conference – Bidding for the Supply & Delivery of Instrument Transformers, Meter and Conductors), 10:00 a.m.
	May 16, 2012 (Pre-bidding conference – Bidding for the Supply & Delivery of Reinforced and Rubber Boots), 1:30 P.M.
WHERE	BATELEC II Main office Basement, Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City

Prospective Bidders shall submit the following Pre-qualification documents:

1. Business Registration (s) (if not bid)
2. Income Tax Returns (Years) (if not bid)
3. Comprehensive Company Profile
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Net Financial Contracting Capacity
6. Affidavit of Undertaking
7. Manufacturer's Authorization/Manufacturer's Certificate, (if applicable) and Certification from the prospective bidder/contractor (for Supply/Installation)

For inquiries, Prospective Bidders may call/Bids Secretary, Regina B. Cuerva at (043) 756-0107 local 106/109.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) GERTRUDE A. SAAD
Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson

(Sgd.) JOSUE OCTAVIUS M. MENDOZA
Assistant General Manager

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Bureau General of Publics

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau General of Publics (BGP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot – Supply, delivery and installation of the following System Components for the proposed renovation of DEPT Offices and Training Center (a.k.a. the "3rd to 10th Floors of the BGP Multi-Purpose Building) per BGP's Technical Drawings and Specifications: a. 200 units Training Tables/Chairs; and b. 150 units Pantry Chairs
Approved Budgetary for the Contract (ABC)	P1,1,0,000.00
Delivery Period	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)

Bidders should have completed a similar requirement awarded and completed from CY2007 to present amounting to at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligible Bidder is having as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall be conducted using "passed" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated and responsive bid shall be conducted using the same criteria as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids (i.e., Legal, Technical, and Financial Requirements). Bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The complete schedule of activities of bidders is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date(s)
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 10 May 2012 (from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) at the Procurement Office, Ground Flr., 2nd Floor, Fire Station Building, Lt. Mateo corner BGP's Technical Drawings and Specifications, Manila, Manila. Tel. No. 734-1711 to No. 734-1730
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	15 May 2012 (10:00 a.m.)
3.	Opening of Bids	To open every 2:00 P.M. (BPO)
4.	Evaluation of Bids	Every shall be in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
5.	Post-Qualification	
6.	Notice of Award	
7.	Contract Signing	
8.	Delivery of Goods	

The TIN and Certificate of Registration for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BGP Website (www.bgp.gov.ph). The complete Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders from the address stated above upon presentation of this BGP's Bidder's Order Form and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00.

Only bidders who have purchased the bidding documents shall be allowed to view or submit written queries or clarifications.

The BGP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or reasonably indemnify any participant involved in the preparation of Bid(s).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, and to cancel the contract at any time before contract award or reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Furthermore, the BAC reserves the right to waive any minor defects or formality and to accept the bid/proposal most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL D. ROMERO
Chairman

INVITATION TO BID

The CATANDUANES ELECTRIC CORPORATIVE, INC. (CATELCO) invites prospective and pre-qualified bidders to submit the supply of materials needed for the construction of distribution facilities (Rapid Response Projects). It intends to apply the sum of "PESOS: ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FORTY CENTAVOS ONLY (P1,572,500.54) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC).

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

Schedule of Bids activities is as follows:

BAC RESOLUTION	SCHEDULE
1. Pre-bid Conference	May 15, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. (CATELCO BOARDROOM, Mandaon, Virac, Catanduanes)
2. Opening of Bids	May 16, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. (CATELCO BOARDROOM, Mandaon, Virac, Catanduanes)

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in one of the acceptable forms and amounts as stated in Section 27.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

A complete set of Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) (non-refundable) may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below.

The Catanduanes Electric Corporative, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid evaluation and awards shall be governed by the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

The BAC reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any bid, and to waive any defect in the bid, whether in form or substance, if it is in the best interest of the Corporation to do so.

For more information, please see or call the BAC Secretariat, Catanduanes Electric Corporative, Inc. (CATELCO), Mandaon, Virac, Catanduanes, Bicol, Telefax No. (052) 811-2660.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDUARDO G. ILAGAN, MBA
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO G. LOPEZ, ME, MBA
CEO/General Manager

Employers Seek Social Dialogue, Labor Code Review, Wage Rationalization

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL dialogue with organized labor, particularly with responsible trade unions, along with government in addressing issues of mutual concern; ensuring unsupplemented by and inclusive the Labor Code; and rationalizing minimum wage-fixing are among the areas which the country's employers consider as "critical pathways to sustained growth and the operation of a dynamic labor market."

These emerged from discussions in the recently-concluded two-day 53rd National Conference of Employers organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) at the Manila Marriott Hotel. Focusing on the theme, "Pathways to Growth," the biggest annual gathering of employers underscored their desire for commitment to strengthen social dialogue with responsible trade unions," in tandem with government, is in furtherance of "securing an equitable balance of rights and obligations between employers and workers arising from law and policy."

ECOP President Edgardo C. Lanzon noted that in relation to the review of the Labor Code, delegates to the Conference have recommended the reform of pertinent regulatory provisions considered by the rapid changes taking place in the global marketplace and which have become archaic and inflexible in terms of providing the environment that would enable enterprises to flourish and compete in the face of relentless globalization. In addition, the delegates called for the repeal of, and desistance from imposing, harsh penal sanctions against employers for "non-egregious violation of labor law."

On rationalizing minimum wage-fixing, delegates have raised the need to implement as policy and incorporate in the Labor Code the various earned wage system introduced by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC). The first two consists of a basic regional floor wage as safety net and as additional standard/criterion reference for prevailing regional poverty threshold that is intended to protect the incomes of the most vulnerable workers such as the unskilled and semi-skilled in the labor force. On the other hand, the second tier consists of a productivity-based pay system based on wage advances in grade enterprises to the design and implementation of adjusting wages above the floor wage.

In addition, Lanzon said employers sought to sustain efforts to stabilize and consistently improve growth rates, implement priority public-private partnership (PPP) projects to stimulate the generation of employment and economic activities.

MANGO-EAT-ALL-YOU-CAN. Locals, as well as foreign tourists, try to consume as many sun-ripened Guimaras mango varieties as they can during the "Mango-Eat-All-You-Can" segment of the members' 19th Manggahan Festival 2013 (March 15-31) jointly undertaken by the provincial government under Gov. Felipe Nilo Nava, M.D. and the Guimaras Manggahan Foundation led by Henry G. Soliven, concurrent convenor of the Provincial Trade and Tourism Office.

Accenture Experience Hub' now at the PLDT Innovation Area' Philippines, Inc., one of the country's leading IT companies, recently inaugurated the 'Accenture Experience Hub' at the Innovation Laboratory and Telecommunications Education Center of PLDT, or simply called 'PLDT Innolab,' located along Rizal Avenue in Mandaluyong City. The establishment of the 'Accenture Experience Hub' at PLDT Innolab makes it one the only IT center in the country that operates an actual facility that will be used for corporate and private end-user conferences, product exhibits and innovations demos that will enable visitors to view more about Accenture's latest outstanding products and technologies through interactive presentations and actual demonstrations conducted by Accenture employees/executives. Aside from that, this 'Accenture Experience Hub' can also be a venue for tours or 'experience visits' for graduating students raising up Information Technology/Computer Engineering and other related courses to help prepare them for real-life work situations in their chosen IT careers. Shown in photo are the various equipment and other IT-related materials found at the 'Accenture Experience Hub.'

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on his 21st Death Anniversary
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DANIEL M. RAGASA

To our ever dearest DADDY/PAPA,

You had a fulfilled life centered on our LORD JESUS CHRIST and our BLESSED VIRGIN MARY and your LOVING FAMILY.

The years that have passed have in no way diminished the pain of your loss in our midst, but we know that you are in better hands with Him, the Almighty God. For sure, the memories of your goodness, your unselfish love for all of us and our wonderful times together, "Precious Perfect Moments" will forever be etched in our hearts and minds till we join you for all eternity ...

WE LOVE YOU & MISS YOU SO DEARLY.

Loving wife Darling (†)
children Myrna & Sibi (†), Dante, Eddie (†) & Cynthia;
Boots & Billy; Daisy & Ken
grandchildren & great-grandchildren

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